

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus

Worship Service



Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church

*7:00 PM, Sanctuary
December 24, 2025*

Visitors & Saints of Emmanuel:

Welcome! You'll find announcements, contact information, and more on the back of this bulletin. If you'd like to speak with Pastor Justin and/or request prayer, fill out a Contact Card and place it in the offering.

The liturgy (our worship service) comes from Scripture. The whole service is ordered and designed to use God's Word to bring praise and thanks and glory to God. The earliest Christian churches gathered to pray, to hear teaching, and to partake in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion.

All who are baptized in the name of the Triune God, believe in the real presence of Jesus in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion, and are repentant of their sins are welcome at the Lord's Table.

A Message on this Christmas Eve

*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.*

What had Mary told Joseph about the baby?

Mary had been visited by the Angel Gabriel, who told her she would bear the Savior. He also told her that her relative, Elizabeth, was six months into pregnancy; Mary went to visit her. After three months – presumably at the birth of John the Baptist – she returned home.

Perhaps Mary says nothing. Perhaps Joseph doesn't believe her. In a dream, at last, an angel comes to him. What is his place in all this? To take Mary as his wife and to name the baby Jesus. This baby – the one he will name Jesus – he is to raise as his own.

From his wife's womb, from his household, comes the Savior of the Nations.

Holy God, we give you thanks and praise for your birth, descending from heaven into the womb of Mary, to save us from our sins. Save us Lord, now and always, Amen.

✝ Pastor Justin Baker

Prelude

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Go Tell It On the Mountain

HANDBELL CHOIR

Arr. Kevin McChesney, 1963
Arr. Kevin McChesney, 1963

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P I bring you good news of great joy: a Savior has been born to us!

C **Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.**

P Like the Shepherds before us, we have come here to worship Jesus.

C **Come, let us worship and adore him.**

P Christ the babe is worthy of our worship, our praise, and our gifts.

C **In his great mercy, he also takes our sin upon himself.**

P Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.¹ Therefore, let us take time to confess our sin before him, for he came to free us from sin, from evil, and from death.

Silence is kept for self-examination and confession of sin.

P Most merciful God,

C **We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.


C Amen

¹ Proverbs 28:13, ESV


The Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Hymn

ELW 240



Light the Christ can-dle for Mes – si – ah: let the light ban-ish dark – ness



He has come to res-cue his peo – ple. God has come to save us

Verse Text: Justin Baker
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The Reading

- A** "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."²
- C** May Christ and his light be with us all! Amen

² 2 Corinthians 4:6, ESV

Opening Hymn | O Come, All Ye Faithful (Verses 1-4, 6) OH 65

Words: John F. Wade, circa 1743. v.1-3, 6 Translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841;
v. 4, 5 Translated by William T. Brooke (1848-1917).

Music: 'Adeste Fideles' or 'Portuguese Hymn' John F. Wade, 1743. Setting: "A Hymnal" (Episcopal), 1916.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2007 Revision.

♩ = 120

1. O come, all ye faith - - ful, joy - ful and tri - - um - - phant, O
2. True God, true God, Light from Light E - - ter - - nal,
3. Sing, choirs of an - - gels, sing in ex - ul - - ta - - tion; O
4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to His cra - - dle,
5. Lo! star led chief - tains, Ma - gi, Christ a - - dor - - ing,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - - le - - hem. Come and be -
Lo, He shuns not the Vir - - gin's womb; Son of the
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - - bove! Glo - ry to
Leav - - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; We too will
Of - - fer Him in - - cense, gold, and myrrh; We to the

hold Him, born the King of an - - gels; O come, let us a -
Fa - - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
God, glo - ry in the high - - est;
thi - - ther bend our joy - ful foot - - steps;
Christ Child bring our hearts' ob - - la - - tions.

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

6. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?

Apostolic Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise | Angels We have Heard on High

OH 50

*Words: French Carol; Translated by James Chadwick, 1862.
Music: 'Gloria' French carol melody. Setting: Edward (or Edwin) S. Barnes, before 1916.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.*

$\text{♩} = 130$

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 130 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final line, 'Gloria in excelsis Deo!', which is marked with a fermata. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some passages in the treble and bass staves being more melodic than others.

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 Christ Whose birth the an - - gels sing;
4. See Him in a man - - ger laid, Whom the choirs of an - - gels praise;

And the moun - tains in re - ply E - cho - ing their joy - - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

Glo - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Salutation & Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray,
- C** O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-14

A reading from Isaiah, beginning with the seventh chapter.

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 110:1-4 (congregation responds with the bold text)

¹ The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.”

² **The LORD sends forth from Zion
your mighty scepter.**

Rule in the midst of your enemies!

³ Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy garments;
from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth will be yours.

⁴ **The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.”**

The Second Lesson

1 John 4:7-16

A reading from First John, beginning with the fourth chapter.

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon

P Matthew records this about the greatest in the kingdom of heaven:

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

All little ones – and any others – are invited forward for a message and for prayer.

Christmas: Sing we now of Je - sus, born on Christ-mas day.
Easter: Sing we now of Je - sus, ris'n on Eas - ter day.

Sing we now of Je - sus, born on bed of hay.
Sing we now of Je - sus, ris'n from death's dark grave.

Lift up your voice, with all the world re - jice;
Lift up your voice, with all the world re - jice;

sing we now of Je - sus, born to light our way.
sing we now of Je - sus, ris'n the world to save.

**May be sung as a round.*

Text: Michael Burkhardt
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text © 1995 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”*

(which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Justin Baker

A large print copy of this sermon is available from the ushers.

Hymn | Angels From the Realms of Glory (Verses 1-2, 4-7) OH 49

Words: James Montgomery, 1816.

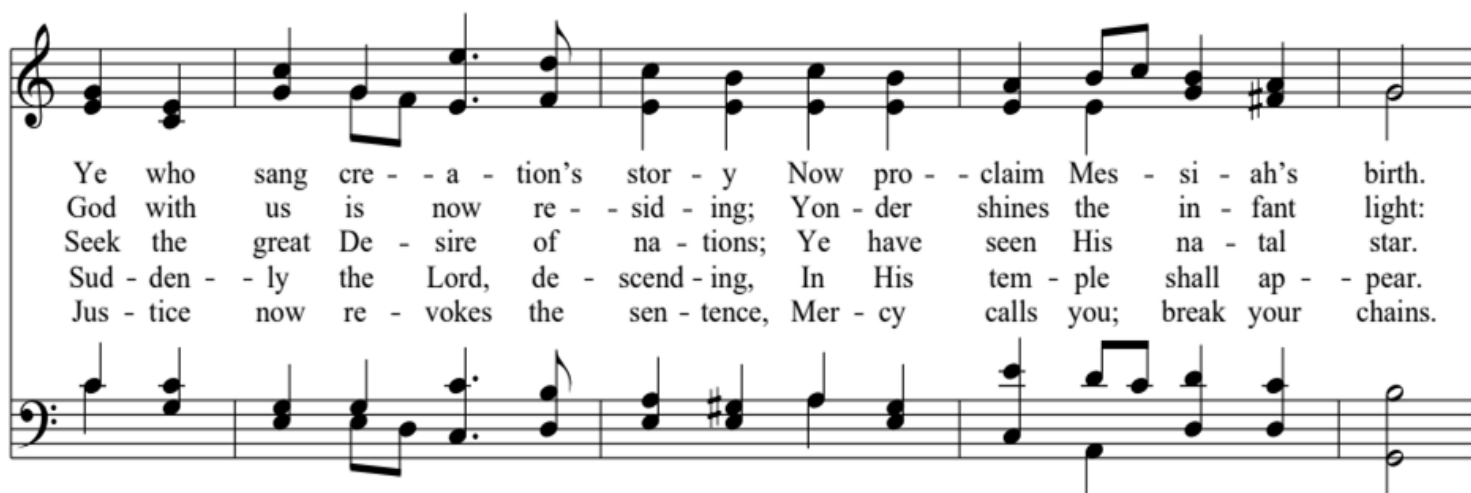
Music: 'Regent Square' Henry Smart, 1867. Setting: "Psalms and Hymns for Divine Worship", 1867.

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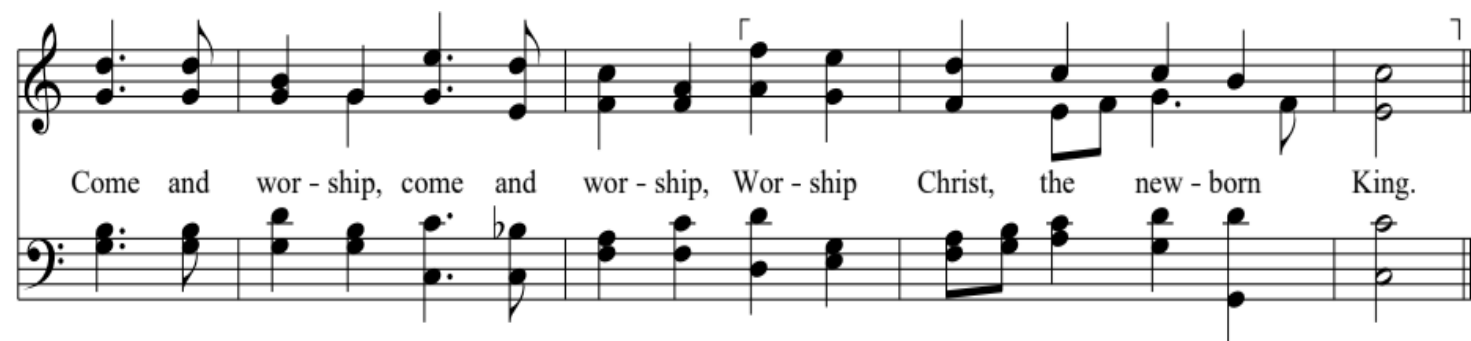
♩ = 100



1. An - - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep - herds, in the field a - - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - - far;
 4. Saints, be - - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear;
 5. Sin - ners, wrung with true re - pen - tance, Doomed for guilt to end - less pains,



Ye who sang cre - - a - tion's stor - y Now pro - - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 God with us is now re - - sid - ing; Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 Seek the great De - sire of na - tions; Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 Sud - den - - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - - pear.
 Jus - tice now re - vokes the sen - tence, Mer - cy calls you; break your chains.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

6. Though an Infant now we view Him,
 He shall fill His Father's throne,
 Gather all the nations to Him;
 Every knee shall then bow down:

7. All creation, join in praising
 God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
 Evermore your voices raising
 To th'eternal Three in One.

The Nicene Creed

P People of God, in whom do we believe?

C 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;
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He became incarnate of the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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

The Prayers

- P** As we long for the return of Jesus in glory, let us pray for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their need.

A brief silence is kept.

- A** “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” Eternal High Priest, hear our prayers, and receive our thanks, especially for these ways we know you heard us and answered us:

A sufficient pause is kept that thanksgiving for answered prayers may be offered.

Lord, in your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise for sending Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary. We long for his return, to raise the dead, judge the world, make all things right, and bring us with him into life and glory forevermore. Bless us with this faith in your Son. Lord, in your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** Pour out your favor upon our congregation and fellow area congregations. Help us prepare your way into the hearts of others, especially those who walk in darkness, doubt, or despair. Lord, in your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** O Prince of Peace, protect and bless Your persecuted servants, especially during this season of light. Turn their suffering for the sake of Your Name into great joy. Bless also those missionaries whom we have come to know together with their families: the Rev. Dan Omar, the Rev. Thomas Thorstad, Dure Negassa, and the Rev. Dagaga Gemachu. Lord, in your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** Bless all the dear children who need your tender care. Keep them safe from every danger. And give childlike faith to the faithless. Lord, in Your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

A Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Banish those things which trouble Your people in body, mind, heart or soul. We lift before You especially:

George and Donna Campagna, Linda Casper, May Hill, Jim Troxell, David Weihe, Vince Berardinelli, Gayle Wertz, June Ugen, Julie and family, Trudy, Linda, Frances and family, Peggy, Brylee, Sandra, Zachary, Kevin, David, Kathy, Asa, Jerry, Jack, Al & family, Beth, Colleen, Rachael, Leila, Darin, Les & Cathy, Tony, Sarah, and Harry

We also lift up the names of those for whom we now pray, silently or aloud. *A pause is kept that other names and supplications may be offered.*

Pour out your Spirit upon them, that they may be granted the faith to endure. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

A Come quickly, Lord of Life. We ask especially that you watch over *the family of Harry Yothers, the family of Debbie Pritts, the family of Mark, the family of Cathy, and the family of Rosalie*. Fill all families who mourn with the strength to grieve, the comfort of your presence, and faith unto life everlasting. Lord, in your mercy.

☞ hear our prayer.

P Fill this congregation with the faith that endures unto life eternal. Make us one people united in prayer. Send families, children, widows & widowers, the elderly, and any others into our midst, that they also may be filled with faith, encourage this congregation, and bring honor and glory and praise to your name. Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ Amen

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- P** *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. 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. (Isa. 9:2, 6)*

The Peace

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

- C** And also with you.

The congregation makes peace with one another.

The Offertory

FLUTE AND ORGAN

A Christmas Prelude

Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

Prayer for the Laying on of Hands

Anyone who desires healing for the sick through the anointing of oil may request this from Pastor Justin.


Offering of Praise | Doxology to the Tune of *What Child is This*

E Minor: Em D G D B⁷ Em Am/C



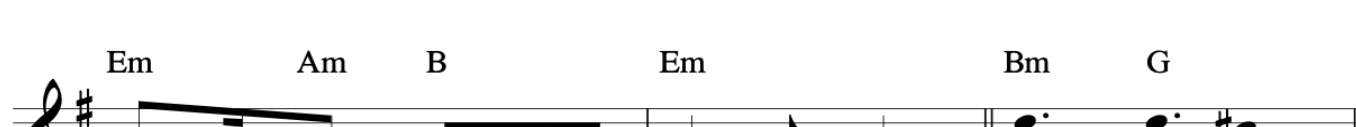
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

B Em D G D B⁷



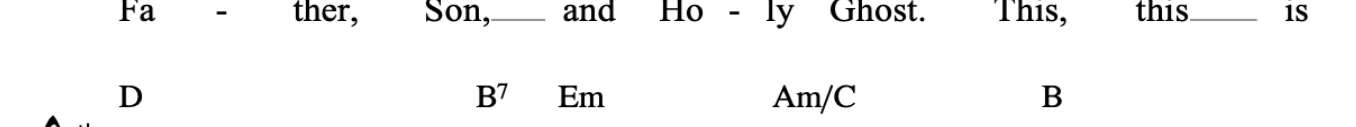
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Em Am B Em Bm G



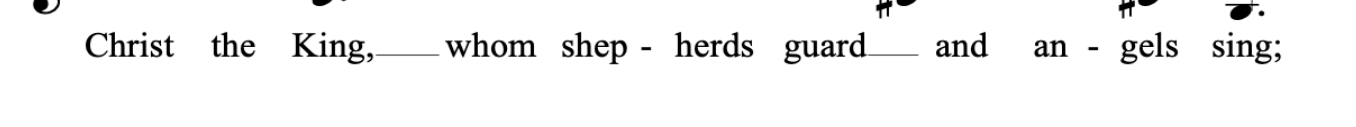
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is

D B⁷ Em Am/C B



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm G D B⁷ Em Am B Em (or E Major)



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: 16th Century English Melody

GREENSLEEVES
87.87 with Refrain

Offertory Prayer

- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
- C** We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

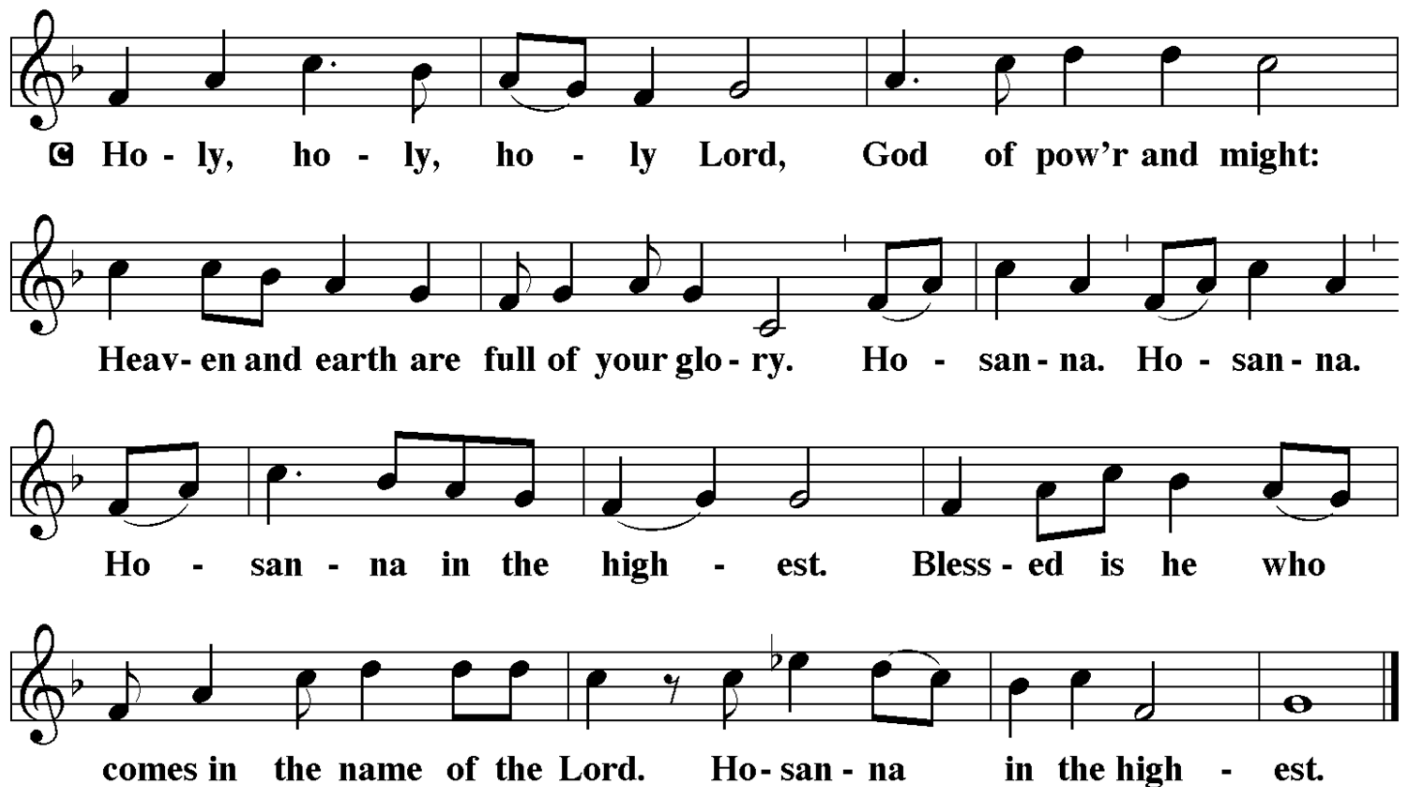
Preface for Christmas

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer of Hippolytus

P We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will. He is your Word, inseparable from you. Through him you created all things, and in him you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before you, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.

C Amen

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

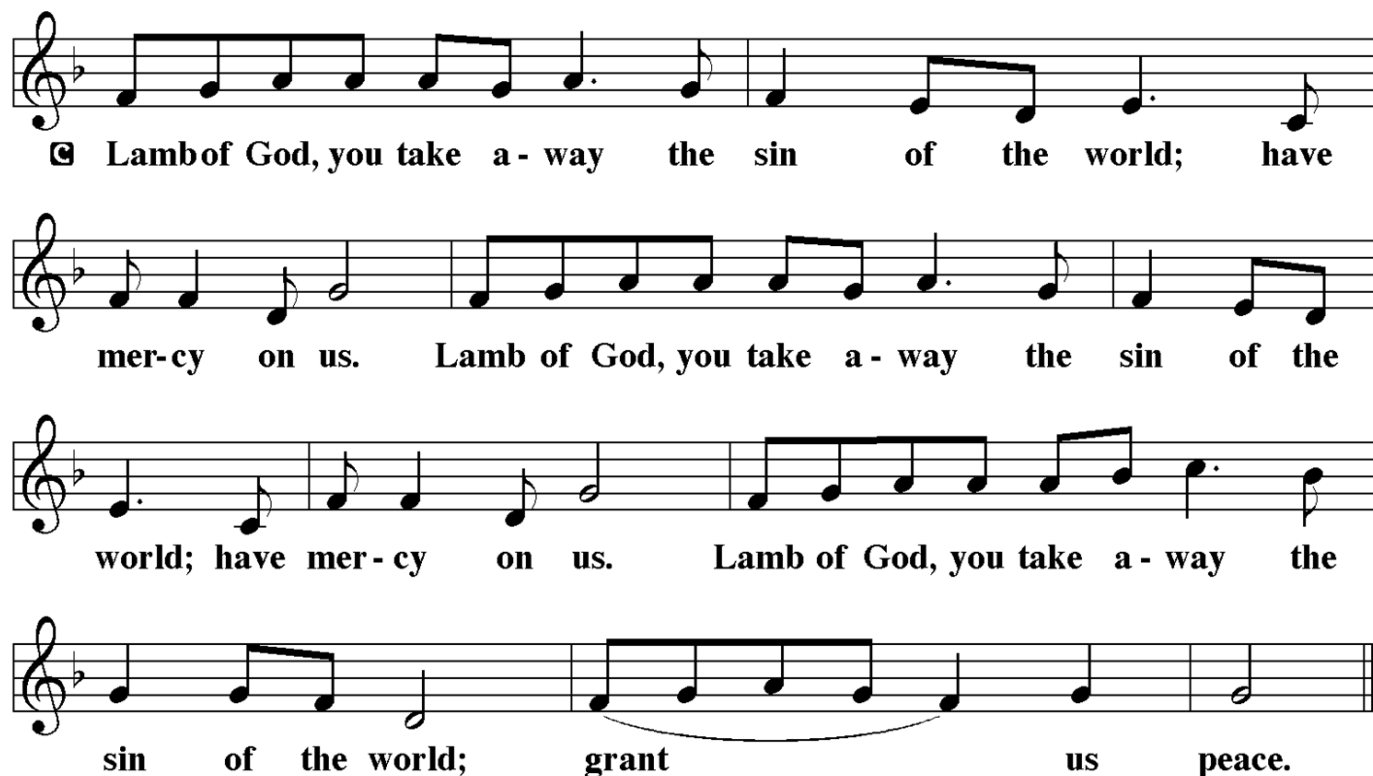
C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and
ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

P Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

C Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei



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.

Our Practice of Holy Communion

St. Paul writes: *"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup."* (1 Corinthians 11:27–28, ESV)

Not one of us is worthy *on our own merit* to receive our Lord Jesus. Nevertheless, he bids us to come to him all the same (Matthew 11:28-30). And so, trusting his great mercy, anyone may come to him in faith, having examined oneself according to this confession:

All who are baptized in the name of the Triune God, believe in the real presence of Jesus in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion, and are repentant of their sins are welcome at the Lord's Table.

All others may come forward for a blessing, signaling this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Solo Offering for Holy Communion

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Faith Palmer

Jean-Baptiste Lully (1632-1687)

Communion Hymn | In the Bleak Midwinter

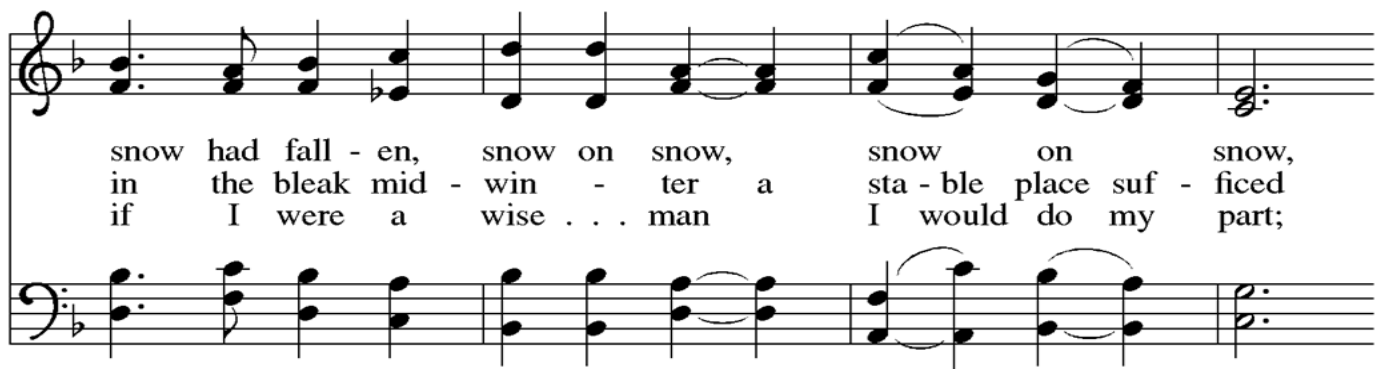
ELW 294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 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
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Communion Hymn | Good Christian Friends Rejoice

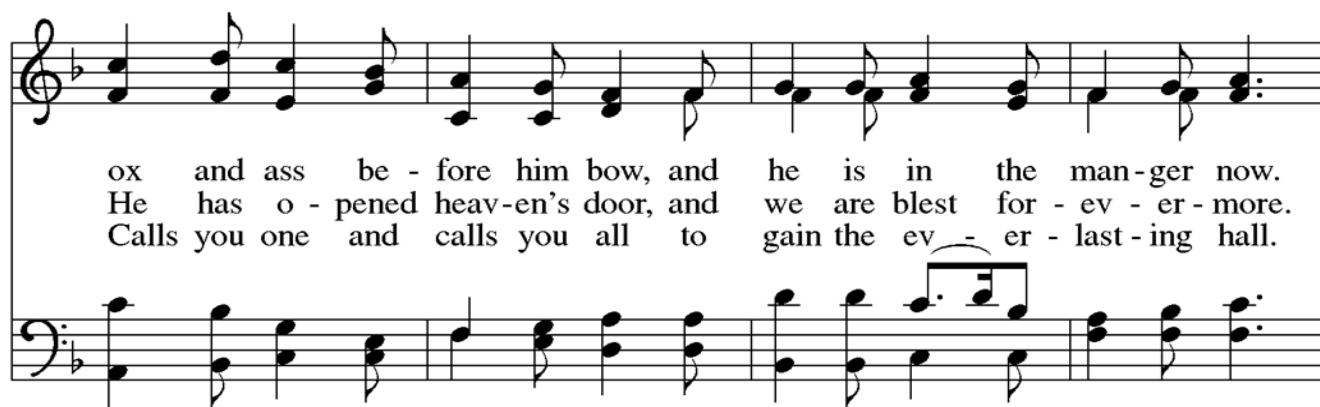
ELW 288



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Communion Hymn | Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

The Lighting of the Candles

The acolyte takes light from the Christ Candle and shares it with the ushers. The ushers then share their candle light with the first in each pew.

P Christ, the Light of the World, has visited us this night.

C **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.³**

P May Christ dwell with us, as we share his light with one another.

C **Amen**

The sanctuary is darkened. The candles are lit. Hymns are sung.

³ John 1:14, ESV

Candle-lighting Hymn | It Came Upon (Verses 1, 3-5)

LH 60

Words: Edmund H. Sears, 1849. Music: 'Carol' Richard S. Willis, 1861.
 Setting: "Order of worship for the Reformed Church in the United States", 1866.
 copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

♩ = 60

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glor - ious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suf - fered long;
 4. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
 5. For lo! the days are has - t'ning on, By pro - phet - bards fore - told,

From an - gels bend - - ing near the earth, To touch their harps of gold;
 And still their hea - ven - ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - - ry world;
 Be - neath the an - - gel strain have rolled Two thou - sand years of wrong;
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev - - er circ - ling years Comes round the age of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From Heav - en's all gra - cious King."
 A - - bove its sad and low - ly plains, They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 And man, at war with man, hears not The love - song which they bring;
 Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - - ly on the wing.
 When peace shall ov - - er all the earth Its an - - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in so - - lemn still - ness lay, To hear the an - - gels sing.
 And ev - er ov - er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - èd an - - gels sing.
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife And hear the an - - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wear - y road, And hear the an - - gels sing!
 And the whole world send back the song Which now the an - - gels sing.

Candlelit Hymn | Silent Night

LH

Words: Josef Mohr, 1818. stanzas 1,3 Translated by John Freeman Young, 1863.
stanzas 2,4 translator anonymous.

Music: 'Stille Nacht' Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818. Setting: "Concordia Kinderchöre", 1908.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

$\text{♩} = 60$

1. Si - - lent night, ho - - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - - lent night, ho - - ly night, Shep - herds quake at the sight;
3. Si - - lent night, ho - - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;
4. Si - - lent night, ho - - ly night Won - drous star, lend thy light;

Round yon vir - - gin mo - ther and Child. Ho - - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, Heaven - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu -
Ra - dian beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - - deem - - ing
With the an - - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - - ia to our

mild, Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace, Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
ia! Christ the Sa - vior is born, Christ the Sa - vior is born!
grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
King; Christ the Sa - vior is born, Christ the Sa - vior is born!

A silence and stillness is kept after the singing of the two hymns. Then, the lights slowly return and the blessing is given.

The Blessing

☞ May the Lord bless those who have gathered here this evening with the faith that endures unto everlasting life, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ Amen

Hymn | Joy to the World

LH 61

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719.

Music: 'Antioch' pieced together from "Messiah" George F. Handel, 1741. Setting: Lowell Mason, 1836.
copyright: public domain. This score is a part of the Open Hymnal Project, 2005 Revision.

♩ = 80



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the earth, the Sa - vior reigns! Let men their songs em - - ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in - - fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na - tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, And Heav'n and na - ture sing,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
He comes to make His bless - ings flow Far as the curse is found,
The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness, And won - ders of His love,



And Heav'n and na - ture sing, And Heav'n, and Heav'n, and na - ture sing.
Re - - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - - peat, re - - peat, the sound - ing joy.
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders, won - ders, of His love.

Dismissal

A Go forth shining radiantly with the light of the Christ.

C May the light of Christ burn within us. Amen.



Poinsettia Dedications

*Lou and Michele Hiener:
To the Glory of God*

*Vince and Donna Berardinelli:
In Memory of Irv and Gladys
Rittko, Marcia Endress,
Ted Rittko, Gen and Sam
Berardinelli*

*Ed Zinkan:
As a Gift to Emmanuel's Shut-Ins*

*Ron and Susan Smith:
In Memory of Weinel, Ethel, and
Judy Jones
In Memory of William and Emily
Smith*

*The Bakers:
To the Glory of God*

*Scott and Carol Wilson:
In Memory of Mel and Lois
Wingard and Dean and Doris
Wilson*

*Faith Palmer:
In Memory of my Pap-Pap, Irv
Rittko*

*The Treloar Family:
In Memory of Lee "Pop"
Woodward and
In Honor of Arlene "Mamma"
Woodward*

*Arlene Woodward:
In Memory of Lee and Brian
Woodward*

*The Visnic-Ford Family:
In Memory of our parents and In
Honor of Christmas Blessings*

*Thank you to all those who provided
special music for today's service!*

Soloist: Faith Palmer

Flutist: Elsa Bandli

The Emmanuel Handbell Choir

SERVICE	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Feast of the Holy Innocents
DATE	12/24/2025 7:00PM	12/25/2025 10:15AM	12/28/2025 10:15AM
ORGANIST	Homer Adams	Homer Adams	Homer Adams
PASTOR	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker	Pastor Justin Baker
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Holly Pelusi		Matthew, Lisa, Hannah, and Elizabeth Yothers
COUNTER TEAM	Danette Hunter & MaryAnn Sinwell	Danette Hunter & MaryAnn Sinwell	
GREETERS	Dan & Danette Hunter	Dave & Mary Whipkey	
USHERS	Volunteers & Serenity Wee	Dave and Mary Whipkey & Serenity Wee	
ACOLYTE	Faith Palmer		Hannah Yothers
CRUCIFER			
ALTAR GUILD	Danette Hunter and Donna Berardinelli	Pastor Justin Baker	Carol McDowell and Donna Berardinelli
ALTAR FLOWERS	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias
COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS	Karla Gustafson	Pastor Justin Baker	Arlene Woodward

This Week at Emmanuel

Office Hours: Closed Through January 4th.

Church Phone: (724) 327-2190

Pastor: pastor@elcnalc.org | **Office (Caroline):** office@elcnalc.org

Wednesday, Dec 24	9:00 AM	Prepare Luminaria	Sanctuary
	5:30 PM	Light Luminaria	Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Worship on Christmas Eve	Sanctuary
Thursday, Dec 25	10:15 AM	Worship on Christmas Day	Sanctuary
Friday, Dec 26	9:00 AM	Pack Up Luminaria	Sanctuary
Saturday, Dec 27			
Sunday, Dec 28	9:00 AM	Fellowship Hour Nativity Cookies & Christmas Movie	Luther Hall
	10:15 AM	Worship on The Feast of Holy Innocents	Sanctuary
Monday, Dec 29			
Tuesday, Dec 30			
Wednesday, Dec 31			
Tuesday, Jan 6	7:00 PM	Worship on Epiphany	Sanctuary

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