

Prelude: Ding Dong Merrily on High – arr. Carter; Todd Williams, trombone
He is Born – arr. Hakes, Handbell Choir
Christmastime – arr. Martin – Adult Choir

Welcome

Please Stand

Dialogue

With eyes wide open and our ears on edge,

we look for shepherds and listen for the songs of angels.

In the light of winter's moon, with the Southern Cross lighting the way,

we gather outside the door of a mystery, wondering if we dare go enter.

With folks and friends we love, with strangers we have just met,

we gather, becoming the holy family for this time and in this place.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #283, O Come All Ye Faithful – Brentwood Benson
(video)

Greeting

Alleluia! Today Christ is born!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

With hearts full of joy, let us join our voices in the song the angels sang to the shepherds.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

Solo: Jen Williams, flute" On This Day Earth Shall Ring & 'twas In The Moon of Wintertime – arr. Talbott

First Reading - A reading from Isaiah 9:2-7

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. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Solo: Sally Williams-Sammond - A Thankful Heart This Christmas,
Ruth Elaine Schram

Second Reading - A reading from Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation: WP#4, All is Ready Now

Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-20

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection on the Live Nativity

Gospel Response: W&P #57, Hear The Angels Sing

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day: ELW #297, Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Please kneel as you are able

Prayers of Intercession: Your response today is: **Your Mercy is great**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Wonderful counselor, on this holy night your church throughout the world celebrates the Word of God being born among us. Endow your church with a zeal for sharing your love and grace with all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of hosts, the heavens are glad, the earth rejoices, and the trees sing for joy at your coming. Grant us wisdom to care for your creation in ways that benefit all of your creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Prince of peace, your grace has appeared and brings salvation to all. Bring healing to people and nations divided by violence. Direct the leaders of the nations, so that in self-controlled, upright, and godly living, they may work toward peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God of mercy, you come among us as a vulnerable infant. Protect all in need: those without homes or caregivers, those who grieve, all who are hungry, and all who are ill. Today we especially pray for The family of Bernie Tandarich on the death of his brother, Regis; The family of Gene Timm, The family of Pete Whiteman, Jim Norton, Gbesaye Gballah, Dave Giatras, Vera Rubert, Karen Wendland, Millie Hoffa, Tom Ippolito, Tina Lusby-Anderson, Julia Adams, Sue Ericsson, George Siver, Raelynn Priddy, Jim Alderman, George Kristof, Karla Roth, Gail Hilton, Linda Adams, Lydia Fresca, Bob McCorkle, Rae Coughlin, Allison Parkinson, Louise Williams, Hedy Tranchitella, Justin Roland, All those affected by addiction, and those we name before your now.....(brief silence)..... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we praise you for gathering us tonight to worship in holy splendor. Direct our worship, fellowship, and service, so that our lives and Christian witness may be pleasing to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, your steadfast love never ends. Thank you for revealing your faithfulness and love to us through the saints of every time and place. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of wonder, hear the prayers of your servants as we express our needs in the silence of the moments and the privacy of our hearts.....(long silence).....Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand

Peace

The peace of the Christ Child be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated

Offering

Offertory: Still, Still, Still – arr. Keveren – Adult Choir
Still, Still, Still – arr. Moglebust – Handbell Choir

Please stand

Offertory Response: ELW #296, What Child Is This, vs. 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Offering Prayer

Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Dialogue & Preface

May the God of silent nights be with you!

May the God of herald angels be with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

You crept into chaos so long ago, Shaper of the Stars,
so creation might be born: sheep gathering on hillsides,
stars glittering in the night skies, sea horses frolicking in warm waters.
Silently, you gathered up the dust, shaping us in your image

as the Spirit breathed life into us.
All the gifts of your heart were for us,
but we shut the door of our hearts, saying there was no room for you in our lives.
Prophets came time and again, scattering your clues throughout the Story,
but we turned away, distracted by sin and death.
When you saw we could not understand the Mystery on our own,
you sent Jesus, to reveal everything to us.

As we gather in community, young and old,
we join our voices and sing praises to you this Christmas night:
We will not be afraid,
for great joy is ours this night;
we will look for the signs of your presence,
grace swaddled in hope, love wrapped around broken hearts.
Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!
May peace fill the lives of all your children!

Holy, Holy, Holy
Great Thanksgiving

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The fifth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The sixth system concludes the piece with a final cadence. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Eucharistic Prayer

Leaving your side, God of holiness,
your Child came to walk with us through the cold streets of our lives.
Born in poverty's shadows,
he is the light which illumines your heart for us.
Unwrapped from glory's embrace,
he gathers us together to make us one with you.
Placed in a rude feeding trough
layered with our fears and doubts,
he breathes in your hopes and lives your will,
and brings forth new life for all who follow.

Here in the silence and the singing,
with children, carols, and candlelight,
we gather around the Table of joy,
and we remember that 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.

On this night, when we sing of the baby in the manger,
as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars,
we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

Christ is our light,
we will join the angels in singing the good news;
Christ is our life,
we will join the disciples in telling the story of resurrection and new life;
Christ is our promise,
and we wait for the joy of his return.

In the silence of these holy moments, pour out your Spirit upon those gathered at this table and on the gifts of the Feast of Joy. As we are welcomed here, may we remember and include all rejected by the world. As we are fed by the bread, may we be strengthened to go and bring tangible hope to all who are famished by despair. As we drink from grace's cup, nourish us, so we may go to overflow with love and peace for everyone we meet in every season.

And when all time and history becomes silence,
we will be gathered with our sisters and brothers
from every corner and moment of every universe,
to join the angel choirs in forever singing your praises
as we dance to the Table of wonder and grace,
God in Community, God with Us, Emanuel. 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.

Invitation to Communion

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!
Let every heart receive our Savior!

Hymn: ELW #267, Joy To The World, vs. 1 & 2

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.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Please be seated

Distribution *(The ushers will direct you to the altar rail. Please kneel or stand, as you are able.)*

Communion Music: We Adore You, Baloché (video)
ELW #277, Away In A Manger

Please stand

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of the Word made flesh, Jesus our Lord, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Service of Light

The Light shines in the darkness,

And the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,

And we have beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born.

To us a Son is given.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

May the light of Christ's love fill our hearts with love.

Please be seated

Please use safety while lighting your candle. Adults light candles for children. Hold the lit candle upright and tip the unlit candle towards the lit candle. Glow sticks & battery operated tea lights are available for small children.

Music during lighting: I Wonder As I Wonder – Traditional;
Erin Kauppila, trumpet

Please stand

Music during candles: ELW #281 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Benediction & Sending

On this holy night, all is calm.

All is bright.

Now surrounded by love's true Light, the blessing of God the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon all and remain with you always

Amen.

Now go in peace, for Christ the Savior is born!

Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born! Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn: ELW #289, Angels We Have Heard On High

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Christmas Eve Service!

Acolyte: Salimata & Kabba Bangura

Lector: Bob Kuch

Communion Assistants: Heather Clark
Connie Jones

Hand out Candle/glowsticks: Chloe Clark
Cameron Clark
Coen & Eli Matukaitis

Ushers: Karen Smith
Presley Solt
Michael Kauppila
Dave Dean
Hank Dermer

Youth Worship Leaders: Katie, Alison & Emma Scheivert
Maddy Solt
Myra Matukaitis

Poinsettia's given in honor of and in memory of:

(Flowers may be taken after the 7:00 pm service)

Given by:

Rose Reid

Bill & Jo McAdoo

Ali, Emma & Katie Scheivert

Karen & Peter White, Liliana Koeberle

Lois Pry

Charlie & Jill Scott, Earl Coover

Deborah & Hank Panning

Bob & Sandy Haines

Bob & Sandy Haines

Margaret & Jon Roth

Cindy & Bernie Beegle

Given by:

Dawn Ford

Rose Reid

Rose Reid

Rose Reid

Carol Slody

Carol Slody

Bill & Jo McAdoo

Rhett Lipscomb

Rhett Lipscomb

Tony, Erin, Alison, Emma & Katie
Scheivert

Bernard & Sharon Tandarich

Bernard & Sharon Tandarich

Bernard & Sharon Tandarich

Bernard & Sharon Tandarich

Karen & Peter White, Liliana Koeberle

Karen & Peter White, Liliana Koeberle

Jerry & Mary Lou Rubincam

Lisa & Glen White

Darlene Hoskins

Lois Pry

Lois Pry

Nancy Kirchgasser

Nancy Kirchgasser

Nancy Kirchgasser

The Dean Family

The Dean Family

Charlie & Jill Scott, Earl Coover

Elinore Zaplitny

In honor

Grandchildren: Sydney, Austen, Lindsey, Jacob, Lucas &
Nate

Beth & Pete Fisher; Marlea & David McAdoo

John & Joanne Carlson

Joan Merkle

Grandchildren

Nieces, Nephews, Grandchildren

Our Children

Grandchildren, RJ, Ava, Jaxon, Hunter, Mason & Dawson

Mother, Kay Althouse

Children & Grandchildren

Pastor Susan Lynch

In Memory Of

Husband, Herbert S. Ford

Husband, Jerry Reid

Parents, H. Joseph & Margaret Krauss

Sister, Arlene Krauss

Janet Steen

James & Evelyn Slody

Parents, Peg & Bill Baker; Peg & Mac McAdoo

Doris Polk

Thom Groff

Tom & Sue Scheivert

Parents, Harold & Lydia Trythall

Parents, George & Mary Tandarich

Benjamin & Alice Nunemaker

Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents

Jack & Marie O'Dell

John & Rae Mormando

Parents

Don & Lois McCulley

Husband, George Hoskins

Son, Eddie Pry

Parents, Edward & Margaret Spence

Ann & Leonard Homentowski

Frances & Mark Kirchgasser

Clare Ramsey & Leslie Mooney

Dean Family loved ones - you are dearly missed!

Fritzsche Family loved ones - you are dearly missed!

Helene Coover

Walter & Ruth Minker

Given by:

Elinore Zaplitny
Sally Breuninger
Sally Breuninger
Sally Breuninger
Glenn & Darlene Ford
Glenn & Darlene Ford
Dolores Kuryloski
Dolores Kuryloski
Linda Root
Linda Root
Connie Jones
Connie Jones
Connie Jones
Connie Jones
Barbara Flowers
Barbara Flowers
Barbara Flowers
Tony & Betty Lee Genaro
Muriel Rose
Judy & Bill Osborne
Ethel Zevtchin
Ethel Zevtchin
Sally Williams-Sammond
Sally Williams-Sammond
Sally Williams-Sammond
Matt & Heidi Marcelli & family
Matt & Heidi Marcelli & family
Raymond & Mary Lou Taylor
Raymond & Mary Lou Taylor
Deborah & Hank Panning
Bob & Sandy Haines
Jim & Sue Durborow
Jim & Sue Durborow
Margaret & Jon Roth
Cindy & Bernie Beegle
Chip & Maureen Breuninger
Chip & Maureen Breuninger
Chip & Maureen Breuninger

In honor

Albert & Rose Hanna
Husband, F. Frederick Breuninger
Grandson, Christopher John Breuninger
Parents, Rev. & Mrs. Howard K. Hilner
Clarence & Esther Hanna
Herbert & Anne Ford
Husband, Edmund Kuryloski
Parents, Clifford & Blanche Myers
George & Mildred Root
Kemp Root
Bill Jones
Michael Hayes
Bud & Mary Lyons
William Marguerite Jones
Mr. & Mrs. B. W. Divens
Terry Divens
Kim & Walter Jr. Flowers
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Mike & Mark Zevtchin
Joseph & Julia Myers
Dawn & Henry Katch
Karl Katch
George & Bette Sammond
Edward & Dorothy Montoro
Mary Marcelli
Parents, Mary & Benjamin Simmers
Parents, Edith & Ralph Taylor
Our Parents
Parents, Jim & Lisa Haines; Jim Althouse
Parents, Peg & Jack Durborow
Parents, Jim & Lisa Haines
Parents
Don MacMurray
Leo & Pauline Duggan
Mary Ellen Wargo
Fred Breuninger