

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

2725 58th Avenue

Vero Beach, Florida, 32966

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Our Mission Statement

“Living Lord Lutheran Church is a family of believers, renewed through the Holy Spirit, to be the real presence of the Risen Christ in this place, our community, and the world.”

PASTOR

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves, ELCA

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Adria Ryan

MUSICIAN EMERITUS

Pamela Wilcox

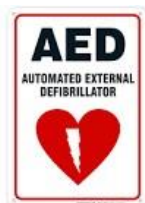
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

Living Lord Lutheran Church is a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org.) With over 9,100 congregations and 4 million members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

We believe and teach that Christ’s body and blood are truly present and are really given in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Communion at present is given in one kind – that is, the consecrated Body of Christ. It is given, along with the words spoken by the Presiding Minister, “The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ.” Children and adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing if you do not wish to receive the Sacrament.

Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers, as well as those returning home to Living Lord today. We do not consider newcomers to be visitors. This is the church of Jesus Christ, and there is a place for you here. We invite you to join the conversation, participate fully in the spiritual life of this community, and proclaim with us the Good News to all the world. Again, welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. If you are visiting today, please inform an usher or the Pastor. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the lobby of the church.

Pastor Greg’s contact information email: gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com Mobile phone: 610.295.9774



In the event of emergency, an AED device is located in the lobby/narthex of the church. You will find it on the wall leading to the restrooms.

Sunday, December 29th, 2024
Service of Holy Communion
1st Sunday in Christmas



WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY

As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.

+ Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY *On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.*

WE BEGIN IN SONG “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” *(remaining seated)*

W ZLOBIE LEZY



1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, For his bed a
2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the
3. As we jour - ney to the sta - ble Like the wise - men
4. Wake our spir - its from their slum - ber; Send the dark - ness



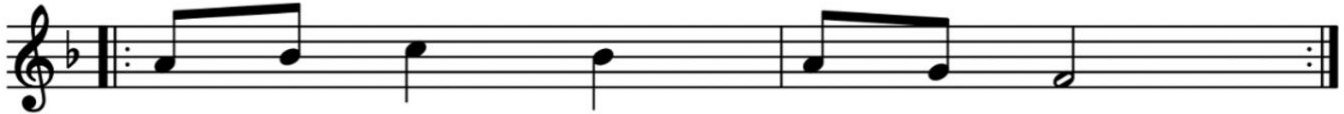
1. cat - tle stall; Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing
2. morn - ing new. Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry,
3. long a - go, We are hop - ing to dis - cov - er
4. on its way. Fill our hearts with joy and won - der



1. Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing,
2. Tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing,
3. What these pil - grims came to know. All are wel - come
4. On this bless - ed Christ - mas day. Songs of an - gels



1. an - gels sing - ing, No - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 2. free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row:
 3. at this man - ger, King and shep - herd, friend and strang - er.
 4. all a - round us; Grace and bless - ing now sur - round us.



1. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 2. Christ the babe was born for you.
 3. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 4. Christ be with us as we go.

Text: 87 87 88 77. Verses 1 and 2, Polish carol; tr. by Edith M. Reed, 1885–1933; verses 3 and 4 © 2004, Daniel L. Schutte.
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Prayer for Worship

Eternal God,
 You have called us to be members of one body.
 Join us with those
 who in all time and places have praised your name,
 that, with one heart and mind,
 we may know the unity of your church,
 and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **All: Amen.**

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able....

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

+ BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P: Blessed the Lord, the God of Israel,
 who alone does wondrous things. **All: Amen.**

Silence is kept from reflection before continuing...

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.



Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence before continuing...

P: God of new beginnings,

C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire.

And set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance.

And welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P: People of God,

A new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

you have put on Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: Amen.

+ **ENTRANCE HYMN** *“Angels from the Realm of Glory”*



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep-herds, in the fields 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 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, 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, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



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

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

L: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Mass No.1

Avon Gillespie

+ KYRIE



+PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(the assembly prays together)*

C: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated...

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

The reading may be found at the back of the bulletin.

L: Word of God, word of life. **All:** Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 148

The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
- ² **Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- ¹² **young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

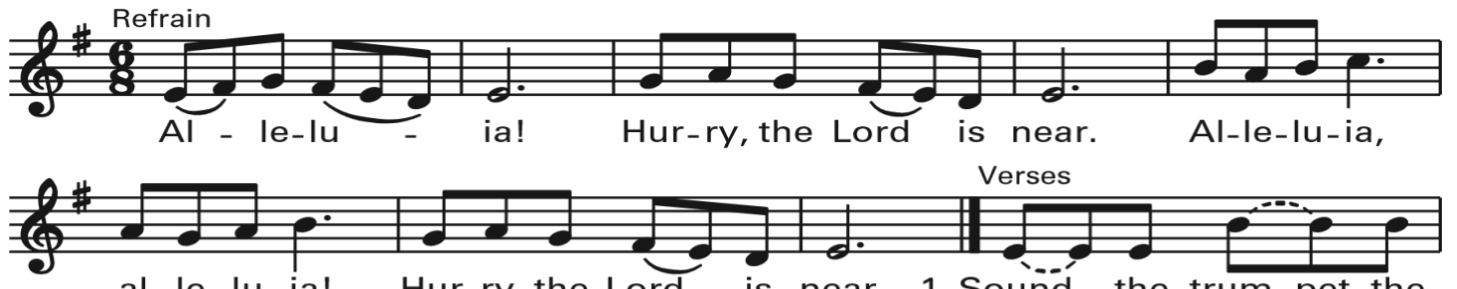
The reading may be found at the back of the bulletin.

L: Word of God, word of life. All: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able....

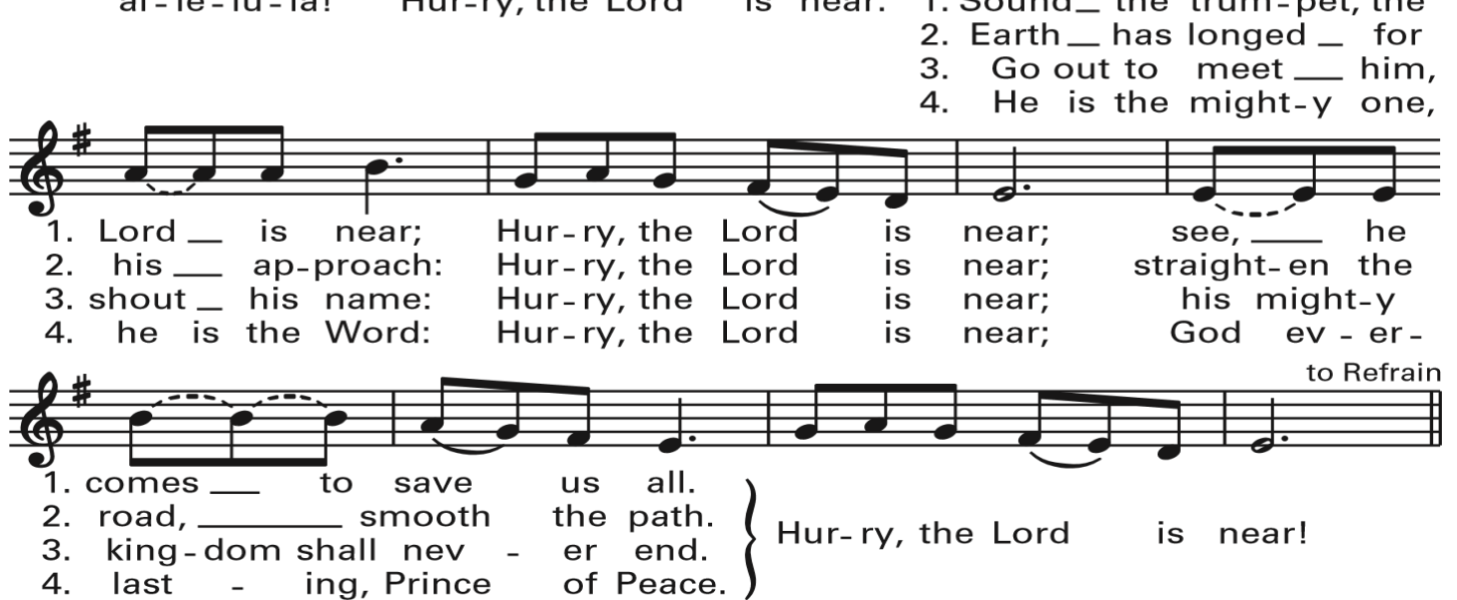
+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Alleluia! Hurry, the Lord is Near”*

Refrain



Al - le-lu - ia! Hur-ry, the Lord is near. Al-le-lu-ia,
al - le - lu - ia! Hur-ry, the Lord is near.

Verses



1. Sound _ the trum-pet, the
2. Earth _ has longed _ for
3. Go out to meet _ him,
4. He is the might-y one,
1. Lord _ is near; Hur-ry, the Lord is near; see, _ he
2. his _ ap-proach: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; straight-en the
3. shout _ his name: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; his might-y
4. he is the Word: Hur-ry, the Lord is near; God ev - er -
to Refrain
1. comes _ to save us all.
2. road, _ smooth the path.
3. king - dom shall nev - er end.
4. last - ing, Prince of Peace. } Hur-ry, the Lord is near!

+GOSPEL **Luke 2:41-52**

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading may be found at the back of the bulletin.

After the reading...

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is invited to be seated...

MESSAGE The Rev. Gregory Shreaves

Silence for reflection . . . The assembly is invited into quiet reflection after the message, and before the Hymn of the Day.

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“My In a Lowly Manger Born”



1 In a low - ly man - ger born, hum - ble life be - gun in scorn;
2 Vis - it - ing the lone and lost, stead - y - ing the tem - pest - tossed,
3 Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up - on the tree.



un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye, Je - sus grew as you and I;
giv - ing of him - self in love, call - ing minds to things a - bove.
See in him God's love re - vealed; by his pas - sion we are healed.



knew the suf - f'rings of the weak, knew the pa - tience of the meek,
Sin - ners glad - ly hear his call; pub - li - cans be - fore him fall,
Now he lives in glo - ry bright, lives a - gain in pow'r and might;



hun - gered as but poor folk can; this is he. Be - hold the man!
for in him new life be - gan; this is he. Be - hold the man!
come and take the path he trod, son of Mar - y, Son of God.

Text: Kō Yūki, 1896–1985; tr. composite
Music: MABUNE, Seigi Abe, 1891–1974
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © Seigi Abe, admin. Christian Conference of Asia.

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+ **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.

A: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

The prayers are concluded with these or similar words...

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**

The Presiding Minister will conclude the prayers with this or similar petition:

+THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The peace is shared by remaining in place and bowing, waving, extending a hand to those around you.

The service continues with the Offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates in the lobby/narthex of the church either prior to entering the worship space, or on the way out of the church. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.

Our work – God’s work here at Living Lord, is supported entirely by the financial generosity of this community. As an additional option to your giving today, prayerfully consider using the QR code below for a secure payment gateway on our church website. There you may designate where you’d like.



OFFERING HYMN “We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem’s plain, Gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and



1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
5. Sac - ri - fice; “Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!”



1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
2. O - ver us all to reign.
3. Wor - ship him, God on high.
4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
5. Sounds through the earth and skies.



star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward



lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1–11.
Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ OFFERING PRAYER

A: Eternal God,
You make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive thee simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister offers the Words of Institution over the bread and wine...

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

] +SANCTUS

“Sing Praise and Thanksgiving”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and might,
 Hea - ven and earth, hea - ven 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,
 bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Ho - san - na, ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na, ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na, ho -

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Presiding Minister continues...

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting
 and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise.
 Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory.
 Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders.

With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise.

With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage.
With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love.
With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship.
With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus,
the Holy One.

With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family.
With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near.
With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and
rising.

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.

With hearts full of memories and hopes,
we break this bread and share this cup,
remembering the death and resurrection of Christ,
and his promise to be with us always
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us.
You are our heart's desire.
You are our priceless treasure.
You are the garden of paradise.
Come down, O Love divine.
Come among us, O passionate Fire.
Come within us, O Spirit of unity.

Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts,
which we are about to receive from your bounty.
Bless our table and the feast we share.
Bless us with gladness of heart.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

At this table make us your body.
Form us to be people of justice and peace.
Fill us with gratitude and generosity
that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed.
Come, Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Praise to you, Author of creation.
Praise to you, O Beloved One.
Praise to you, O Giver of all good things.
Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught us to pray:

+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

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION SONG

*Heritage Mass
Owen Alstott*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

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The assembly is invited to be seated for the distribution of the Sacrament.

The Sacrament is distributed. Worshipers will come forward to receive a host from the Presiding Minister, and receive the wine from the Assisting Minister.

As the Presiding Minister offers these words, “The body of Christ, given for you”, and the Assisting Minister offers these words, “The blood of Christ, shed for you” each is invited to respond with “Amen.”

During the distribution of the Sacrament, the assembly is invited to sing below:

COMMUNION HYMNS

“On Christmas Night”



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: “Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king’s birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav’n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men.”

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

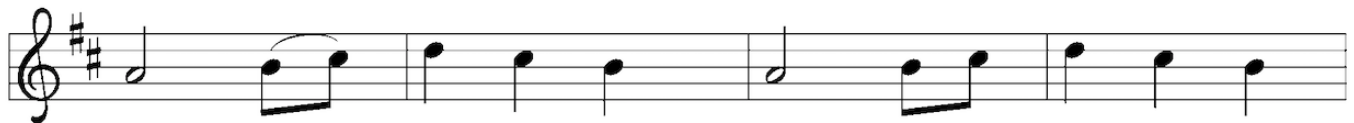
"The First Noel"



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...

+ P: The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Faithful God,
In this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ,..
as we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled.
Sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



+BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
+bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ SENDING HYMN

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

+DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is here!

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 29, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Wandering Away

“Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49). Such bold questions for a tween Jesus to press upon his worried parents! Clearly Mary and Joseph face some significant challenges as they sort out how to parent the Son of God.

If you were to wander away from your travel companions in an unfamiliar city, where would they find you? Might you duck away in search of a bookstore or a café or a particular type of museum? Would you gravitate toward a public park or cathedral or riverbank? Might you return to your room for a nap?

We can question the wisdom of wandering away from one's group without giving notice. But perhaps we can also empathize with Jesus' desire to meet his spiritual needs, and with the attraction of a place his spirit feels most at home. He takes himself somewhere he can draw close to God.

We also might identify for ourselves those times and places our spirits feel most at home, the practices in which we draw close to God in unique and personal ways. We can do this alone or with others. We can do this in explicitly sacred spaces; often, we find what we need in communal worship, shared ritual, and the study of scripture. We may also crave nourishment from art, nature, literature, music, rest, creative outlets, silence, movement, meditation, tears, and laughter . . . so many things.

Throughout his adult life, Jesus will regularly separate himself from groups to rest and pray because these things refresh his soul. What places and practices renew your spirit? How can you create the space you need for such prayer, reflection, and rest? How can you become as attuned to the needs of your inner life as Jesus was to his?

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THANKS! *Many thanks to all who were able to contribute to the church's employee Christmas fund this year, and who made individual contributions. On behalf of Adria Ryan, Kristen Aurand, and me, thanks! We love serving you and this congregation.*

DON'T FORGET – FIRST SUNDAY MEN'S BREAKFAST - Next Saturday, January 4th, is our monthly "First Sunday Men's Breakfast". We meet for a meal at 9:00 am, and after some fellowship, Pastor Greg will lead us in a brief look at some biblical goodies. Sign up in the church narthex/lobby. We've been averaging around 14 or so, so don't miss out!