

Luther Memorial Church

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS TUESDAY, DEC. 24, 2024 | 9:30 PM

HYMN #290 Go Tell It on the Mountain Refrain Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! 1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain 2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain 3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain Handbell Choir He Is Born | arr. Sondra Rucker God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen | arr. Cynthia Dobrinski Handbell Choir

HYMN #295 Of the Father's Love Begotten (Stanzas 1, 3, 5)

1. 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 that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

Welcome!

Please silence your cell phone in the nave.

LIVESTREAM BROADCAST

This service is livestreamed on our website at www.luthermem.org and YouTube. Cameras are installed in the nave, and worshipers may occasionally be visible on this broadcast.

PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in the Grainger Hall parking ramp, one block east of the church, off Brooks Street. For closer access, parking is available in the garage under the church off Conklin Place alley.

INCENSE

Incense will be used during this evening's service.

RESOURCES

T-coil audio is available in the nave. Ushers can provide hearing assistance and a wheelchair, if needed. Praver shawls are available in the narthex.

CHILDCARE

Infants and children are welcome in worship. Changing tables are located in the restrooms.

LEARN MORE

If you would like a pastor to call, or want to learn more:

- Please fill out a pew card and place in the offering plate
- Visit us online at www. luthermem.org or Facebook

- 3. This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.
- Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen

HYMN #288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

- Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Jesus, Holy Child | Gerhard Schroth Adult Choir

Jesus holy child, now rest your head on the lowly manger bed, Mary watch is keeping o'er your sleep in the place where oxen fed. On this holy night the stars are bright, all the heavens are aglow, And the angel song comes down to earth telling of our Saviour's birth.

Oh thou Son of God in manger low, thou our blessings dost bestow, Bring us joy and health and peace and rest, guide us as thru life we go. May we always true and faithful be, take our hearts make them thy home, Lead us onward 'till we heaven see, there to live eternally.

HYMN #300 The First Noel (Stanzas 1, 2, 4)

 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*
- 4. This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

HYMN #277 Away in a Manger

- Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

HYMN #270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

- Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*
- 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Holy Communion CHRISTMAS EVE TUESDAY, DEC. 24, 2024 | 10 PM

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

GATHERING

*Please rise and turn to face the cross as the procession approaches the altar.***#283 PROCESSIONAL HYMN** O Come, All Ye Faithful

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

GLORIA





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we may walk in the light of Christ and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

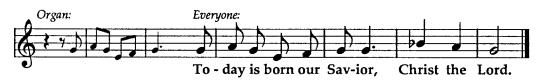
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its

joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96 (Setting by Peter Hallock) Antiphon sung once by the choir and then by all. Verses sung by choir.



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Antiphon sung by all.

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

Antiphon sung by all.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

Antiphon sung by all.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

The congregation receives candlelight from the torchbearers and ushers. When passing the light, tip the unlighted candle.

- **#281** HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night (Stanzas 1 & 2)
 - 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.

2. 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!

GOSPEL Luke 2:1–20

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The 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.**

- **#281** HYMN Silent Night, Holy Night (Stanza 3)
 - 3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Candles may be extinguished.

Please sit. SERMON

Please rise.

- **#268 HYMN OF THE DAY** From Heaven Above *Sung by all*
 - "From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:"
 - To you this night is born a child of Mary, chosen virgin mild; this newborn child of lowly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.

Sung by high voices

 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry, who will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free."

Sung by low voices

4. "The blessing that the Father planned the Son holds in his infant hand, that in his kingdom, bright and fair, you may with us his glory share."

Recorders

5. "These are the signs that you will see to let you know that it is he: in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes the child who all the earth upholds."

Sung by all

6. Now let us all with joyful cheer go with the shepherds and draw near to see this wondrous gift of God, the blessed child to us bestowed.

Organ

12. O dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, a holy shrine, within my heart, that you and I need never part.

Sung by all

- 13. My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps; I too must sing with joyful tongue the sweetest ancient cradle-song:
- 14. "Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us the Son has giv'n." With angels sing in pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** *Please greet your neighbor:* **Peace be with you.**

MEAL

Please sit.

OFFERING Wassail Carol | William Mathias

Wassail! Sing we in worship of Christ's nativity.

Now joy be to the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost,

That one God is in Trinity, Father of Heaven of mightes most.

And joy to the virgin pure that ever kept her undefiled, Grounded in grace, in heart full and sure, and bare a child as maiden mild.

Bethelehem and the star so shen, that shone three kingès for to guide, Bear witness of this maiden clean; the kingès three offered that tide.

And shepherds heard, as written is, the joyful song that there was sung: Gloria in excelsis! With angel's voice it was out rung.

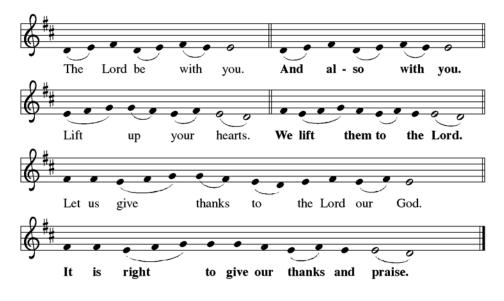
Now joy be to the blessedful child, and joy be to his mother dear; Joy we all of that maiden mild, and joy have they that make good cheer. Wassail! Sing we in worship of Christ's nativity.

Please rise. OFFERING PRAYER

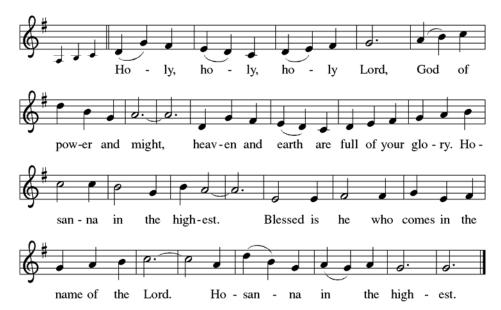
Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... until he comes.

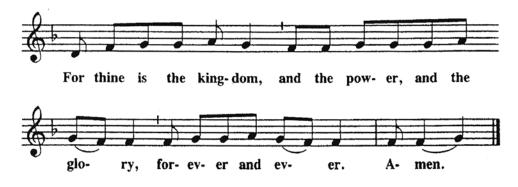


Remembering, therefore... now and forever.

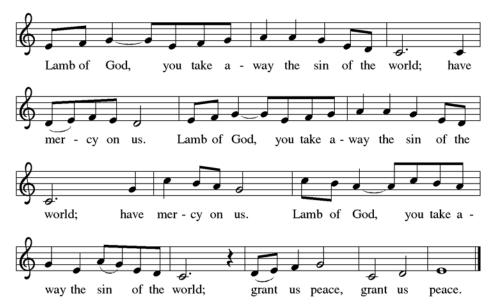


THE LORD'S PRAYER





Please sit. LAMB OF GOD



THE COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. We receive the Body of Christ (bread) in our open hands. Christ is fully present in both bread and cup. The Blood of Christ (wine) may be received by drinking from the chalice or by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice. Gluten-free bread is available on request.

COMMUNION ANTHEM One Small Flower | Gary A. Cornell

Behold a flow'r is growing, of purest form and grace; As prophets sang foreknowing, a branch of Jesse's race Shall bear one perfect flow'r In midst of coldest winter, at darkest midnight hour.

Isaiah had foretold it in words of promise sure; And Mary's arms enfold it, an infant, meek and pure Through God's eternal will, This child to us is given at midnight, calm and still.

This flow'r, so weak and tender with fragrance fills the air, Dispells in glorious splendor the darkness of our fear. True God, yet human child; From sin and death he saves us, this rose of Mary mild. O Savior, Child of Mary, who feels all human woe; O Savior, King of Glory, who triumphs o'er the foe; Bring us at last, we pray, To the gleaming courts of heaven, to never ending day.

COMMUNION HYMNS

- **#276** Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
- **#279** O Little Town of Bethlehem (Stanzas 1 & 4)

COMMUNION ANTHEMS

In Dulci Jubilo Es is ein Ros entsprungen

COMMUNION HYMNS

- **#269** Once in Royal David's City
- **#274** On Christmas Night

Please rise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

#267 RECESSIONAL HYMN Joy to the World *Please turn to face the cross as the procession passes to the rear of the nave.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Postlude on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" | David Willcocks

HONORING & REMEMBERING AT

This Christmas, as we celebrate the gift of the Incarnation, we are thankful for the generous gifts you have made to ELCA World Hunger and toward the cost of Christmas trees, wreaths and poinsettias. We are blessed by your continued support of the mission and ministry of Luther Memorial Church and the work we do together in His name.

ELCAWORLD HUNGER

Sue Bangert & Mike Hammers in honor of Pastors Brad & John Sandra Bertics in memory of Vicky Bertics Sandra Bertics in memory of Paul Bertics Judy & Bill Braham in honor of Andrew Braham & Brenda Foster Judy & Bill Braham in honor of Gretchen Knapp & Matt Knapp Judy & Bill Braham in honor of Sebastian Knapp Judy & Bill Braham in honor of Elliot Knapp Kathy Brammeier in memory of Orric & Edna Culp Paul Brammeier in memory of the Rev. Herbert & Emma Brammeier Paul & Kathy Brammeier in memory of Jowann Fleming Beth & Dave Bray in memory of Adele Brey & Jerry Freudenburg Judy L. Bush in memory of Dr. George Bush Cliff & Dorothy Haaland in memory of our parents Jan & Jane Hall in memory of David Christopher Hall Karen Harris Mary Jean Huston in memory of Ralph E. Huston Mary Jean Huston in memory of Leona Kosanke Woody Klipp in honor of Barbara J. Klipp Annette & Peter Mahler in memory of Henry & Meta Mahler Annette & Peter Mahler in memory of Henry & Eva Seidenschnur Doris Marten in memory of Wally Marten Rick & Kathy Miller in memory of Gordon & Lois Krunnfusz Margaret Miner in memory of Walt & Ruth Miner The Pantry Police in honor of Sarah Brinkman Lee & Mary Powell in honor of our grandchildren Robert & Marsha Steffen in memory of Karl & Arleen Zuehlke and Elmer & Geneva Steffen Rod Witte in memory of Cleone Witte Jill Doherty, Joe, Hannah & Rachel in memory of Cleone Witte Suzanne Habedank, Glen & Jacob in memory of Cleone Witte Kristine & David Zellmer in memory of the Rev. Dennis Anderson Dan Zerger & Maria Brown in memory of Shirley & Allan Zerger Dan Zerger & Maria Brown in memory of the Rev. Robert J. Brown Dan Zerger & Maria Brown in memory of Kenneth Fricker Dan Zerger & Maria Brown in memory of Sandra Kromenaker Henry Dan Zerger & Maria Brown in memory of grandparents, aunts, uncles & cousins

CHRISTMAS GREENERY

Sue Bangert & Mike Hammers in honor of Luther Memorial staff Rebecca Behrens & Blake Merriman in honor of Jim & Jane Behrens Sandra Bertics in memory of Vicky Bertics Sandra Bertics in memory of Paul Bertics Juliette Butler in memory of Ellie Danziger Charles Craig in honor of Louis Wayne Craig Sam & Natalie Curtis in honor of their grandparents Hugh, Norma & Jo Paul Twardy & Kris Gruber-Twardy in memory of our parents Bob & Sharon Gruber and Marion & Lorraine Twardy Paul Twardy & Kris Gruber-Twardy in honor of our children and grandchildren Cliff & Dorothy Haaland in honor of our family Bob & Bevi Haimerl in memory of Lautz family members Bob & Bevi Haimerl in memory of Haimerl family members Jan & Jane Hall with gratitude for Luther Memorial Church Karen Harris in memory of Phil Harris Mary Jean Huston in memory of Ruth K. Huston Mary Jean Huston in memory of Sylvia Brummett Julie Johnson in honor of Phyllis Pleuss Durwood S. Klipp in memory of Wilbert & Lucille Klipp Barbara Koller in memory of Terry Allen & Lewis Bosworth Alan & Margaret Korz in memory of Paul Korz Peter & Annette Mahler in honor of Benjamin & Claire Doris Marten in memory of Albert & Marilla Stockland and Julia Marten Rick & Kathy Miller in memory of Victor & Eleanor Miller Margaret Miner in memory of Walt & Ruth Miner Bill & Judith Nienhauser in memory of our parents Bill & Judith Nienhauser in honor of our sisters Heidi & Tom Notbohm in honor of Jesus' birth Phyllis Pleuss in memory of Christine Ferguson Lee & Mary Powell in memory of Art & Evelyn Swenson Ken Sosinski & Gary Lewis in memory of Lewis & Sosinski families Robert & Marsha Steffen in honor of grandchildren Holden & Fischer Schafermeyer, and Wayland & Camila Steffen Lynn Washington in memory of E. Reade & John R. Rettig Bill & Cindy Wiedholz in memory of our mothers, Maurine & Aud Bill & Cindy Wiedholz in memory of our dear friend Ginny Kristine & David Zellmer in honor of Luther Memorial staff and their families Kristine & David Zellmer in honor of our children and their spouses & children

TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The prodigious expanses of time which preceded the first Christmas were not empty of Christ: they were imbued with the influx of his power. It was the ferment of his conception that stirred up the cosmic masses and directed the initial developments of the biosphere. It was the travail preceding his birth that accelerated the development of instinct and the birth of thought upon earth.

Let us have done with the stupidity which makes a stumbling-block of the endless eras of expectancy imposed on us by the Messiah; the fearful, anonymous labours of primitive man, the beauty fashioned through its age-long history by ancient Egypt, the anxious expectancies of Israel, the patient distilling of the attar of oriental mysticism, the endless refining of wisdom by the Greeks: all these were needed before the Flower could blossom on the rod of Jesse and all of humanity.

All these preparatory processes were cosmically and biologically necessary that Christ might set foot upon our human stage. And all this labour was set in motion by the active, creative awakening of his soul inasmuch as that human soul had been chosen to breathe life into the universe. When Christ first appeared... in the arms of Mary he had already stirred up the world.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PREACHER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ACOLYTES	Judy Braham, Bill Braham
ASSISTING MINISTER	Margaret Miner
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Janet Zentner, Mary Powell, Judy Braham
CRUCIFER	Randy Raasch
CRUCIFER THURIFER	Randy Raasch Alex Starr
THURIFER	Alex Starr
THURIFER LECTOR	Alex Starr Heidi Notbohm

Our thanks to Matt Sundell & Adrian Pearce, trumpets, Steve Nickels & Erin Cook, trombones, and Laura Guse, tympani, for enriching our liturgy this evening.

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