



L U T H E R   M E M O R I A L

# Christmas

HOLY COMMUNION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 | 4 PM



Luther Memorial Church

## Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 | 4 PM

## Welcome!

Please silence your cell phone in the nave.

### LIVESTREAM BROADCAST

This service is livestreamed on our website at [www.luthermem.org](http://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.

### RESOURCES

T-coil audio is available in the nave. Ushers can provide hearing assistance and a wheelchair, if needed. Prayer 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](http://www.luthermem.org) or Facebook

### PRELUDE Go Tell It on the Mountain (Spiritual)

*Esther Szczykutowicz, piano*

Silent Night | Franz Gruber

*Levi Szczykutowicz, piano*

*Charlie Fink, saxophone*

*Michelle Fink, violin*

*Lucy Fink, piano*

Silent Night

*Emma Heggeseth, piano*

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Cora Heggeseth, piano*

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Annika Schinke, piano*

Carols of the Bells

*Emma Schinke, piano*

Noel

*Caroline Schinke, piano*

O Come, Little Children

*Walter Schaeffer, piano*

### GATHERING

*Please rise and turn to face the baptismal font at the rear of the nave.*

### #283 ENTRANCE HYMN O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the king of angels:  
*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2. The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! (*Refrain*)

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *(Refrain)*
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *(Refrain)*

#### **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.**

#### **#288 HYMN OF PRAISE** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! (Stanzas 1 & 2)

1. 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!
2. 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!

#### **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.**

**#270 HYMN** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Stanzas 1 & 3)

1. 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!”
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*)

**READING** Luke 2:1-7

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.

**#279 HYMN** O Little Town of Bethlehem (Stanzas 1 & 3)

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav’n.  
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:8-12

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

**#277 HYMN** Away in a Manger (Stanza 1)

1. 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.

**READING** Luke 2:13-14

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!”

**#289 HYMN** Angels We Have Heard on High (Stanza 1)

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.  
*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

**READING** Luke 2:15–20

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.**

**SERMON**

*Please rise.*

**#290 HYMN OF THE DAY** 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*)

## 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** Gesu Bambino | Pietro Yon

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night  
Was born the Child the Christmas Rose, The King of Love and Light  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, The grateful earth rejoiced  
And at His blessed birth the stars Their exultation voiced

O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, Its king of Love and Light  
Let every voice acclaim His name, The grateful chorus swell  
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell

*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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore... now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be  
thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our

dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,  
as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us  
not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.  
For thine is the king- dom, and the pow- er, and the  
glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

*Please sit.*

### LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace.

### 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 in any of three ways: by drinking from the first chalice, by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice, or by drinking from an individual glass poured from a second chalice. Gluten-free bread is available on request.*



**MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION** Angel Suite | arr. Phillip Keveren

*Kole Consigny, piano*

**COMMUNION HYMN** God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may,  
2. In Beth - le - hem in Ju - dah This bless - ed babe was born,  
3. From God our great Cre - a - tor A bless - ed an - gel came,  
4. The shep - herds at those ti - dings Re - joic - ed much in mind,  
5. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,

For Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior Was born up - on this day,  
And laid with - in a man - ger Up - on this bless - ed morn:  
And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought ti - dings of the same,  
And left their flocks a - feed - ing In tem - pest, storm, and wind,  
And with true love and char - i - ty Each oth - er now em - brace;

To save us all from Sa - tan's power When we were gone a - stray.  
For which his moth - er Mar - y Did noth - ing take in scorn.  
How that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by name.  
And went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, The bless - ed babe to find.  
This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - ers shall re - place.

O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and

joy; O ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

## COMMUNION HYMNS

#269 Once in Royal David's City

#271 I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

*Please rise.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The congregation receives candlelight from the torchbearers and ushers. When passing the light, tip the unlighted candle to receive the flame. Extinguish your candle after the blessing.*

#281 **CHRISTMAS CANTICLE** Silent Night, Holy Night

1. 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!
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.

## SENDING

### BLESSING

*Please extinguish your candle.*

#267 **RECESSIONAL HYMN** Joy to the World

*Please turn to face the cross as the procession passes to the rear of the nave.*

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

#### **DISMISSAL**

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

#### **POSTLUDE** In Dulci Jubilo | Norman Dello Joio

*Maggie Stansfield, soloist, and Rebecca Sawyer, French horn*

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## TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Christ is born. He is born to us. And, He is born *today*. For Christmas is not merely a day like every other day. It is a day made holy and special by a sacred mystery. It is not merely another day in the weary round of time. Today, eternity enters into time, and time, sanctified, is caught up into eternity. Today, Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who was in the beginning with the Father, in whom all things were made, by whom all things consist, enters into the world which he created in order to reclaim souls who had forgotten their identity. Therefore, the church exults, as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing which happened long ago, but a new thing which happens today. For today, God the Father makes all things new, in his divine Son, our redeemer, according to his words: *ecce nova facio omnia*

*Thomas Merton (1915-1968)*

## SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
PREACHER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ACOLYTES	Esther Szczykutowicz, Luke Szczykutowicz
ASSISTING MINISTER	Margaret Szczykutowicz
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Peggy Baldwin, Randy Raasch, Kris Gruber-Twardy
CRUCIFER	Tim Szczykutowicz
LECTOR	Susan Berggren
SACRISTAN	Angela Vitcenda
AUDIO	Jerry Norenberg
VIDEO	Lee Powell
USHERS	Eric Oelkers, Casey Oelkers, Dylan Oelkers, Kendall Oelkers

