

A Service of Lessons & Carols

As you enter the worship space, feel free to go to the altar and light a candle representing your life and the light you are to the world. May you shine brightly throughout the week.

Organ Prelude

Steve Wysocki

No matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey, **you are welcome here!**

Announcements

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence.

Chime~

Silence~

Prayer~

Opening Hymn: *What Child Is This*

ELW #296

Reading: Luke 2:8-14

Ursula Merriman

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!"

Hymn Response: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW #270 vs. 1, 3

Reading: Luke 2:15-20

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.

Hymn Response: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* **ELW #275** vs. 2, 3

Reading: Matthew 2:1-6

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Hymn Response: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*Refrain: O, star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain...*

3. Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising,
worshipping God on high. *Refrain...*

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in a stone-cold tomb. *Refrain...*

Reading: John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Meditation

Josh Gulotta

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

December 2025 Special Offering Option

Employee Christmas Bonus - Christ Lutheran Church/Children's Learning Center

Any amount given goes 100% toward supporting our Employee Christmas Bonus Fund which is not included in our Annual Budget.

Offertory:

Breath of Heaven

Chris Eaton & Amy Grant

Enid Rank, soloist

*I have travelled many moonless nights
Cold and weary with a baby inside
And I wonder what I've done
Holy Father, You have come
And chosen me now to carry Your Son*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now
Be with me now*

*Breath of Heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me Your Holiness
For you are Holy
Breath of Heaven*

*Do You wonder as You watch my face?
If a wiser one should have had my place
But I offer all I am*

*For the mercy of Your plan
Help me be strong
Help me be
Help me*

*Breath of Heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Breath of Heaven
Breath of Heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me Your Holiness
For you are Holy
Breath of Heaven...*

Offertory Response: *What Can I Give Him?*

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wiseman I would do my part; yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Prayers of the Church

Brad Wagner

After each petition:

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overcome it.

Gabi Larrimore, Ferd Piccuiro, Natalie & Dane Kmetz, Leona, Richard, Esther Kochar,
Mark Rambo, Sharon Middleton, Beryl LaFond, Danielle Kirchner, The Foote Family,
Ashley Viegas, Mary Ann Kolumber, Sheila, Karen, Michel Daage, Mariah Butterfield,
George Suarez, John Conover, Meghan, Tammy Harding, Steven Portnoy, Bill Tone,
Keith Schaedel, Gary Brandt, Tiffany Weddle, Kyle

Finally and together:

**Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh,
we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God,
in the name of Jesus, whom we love and follow. 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.**

Closing Hymn:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288

Benediction

Benediction Response:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW #276

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

Postlude

Quiet Communion

Please join the Eucharistic Team at the Altar if you wish to receive Communion.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart. - **Howard Thurman**