

by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***CAROL: “O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”** **ELW Hymn 313**

***NICENE CREED** **ELW page 104**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**
...God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

...We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**
The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY
"One Small Child," by Lloyd Larson

***OFFERING SONG**
“What Child is This” **ELW Hymn 296 | Verse 1**

***OFFERING PRAYER**
God of glory,
great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING** **ELW page 107**
The Lord be with you. **And also 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.

... 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: “Love Has Come” **ELW Hymn 292**

...as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...to you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD’S PRAYER** **ELW Page 208**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**
At the direction of the usher, please come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available upon request, and you may choose wine (in glass cups) or alcohol-free juice (in stainless steel cups). To receive communion at your seat, simply notify an usher. All who seek to receive God’s grace in bread and cup are welcome at this table.

COMMUNION HYMNS
“**Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**” **ELW Hymn 276**
“**Once in Royal David’s City**” **ELW Hymn 269**

***TABLE BLESSING**
May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**
Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
Amen.

SENDING

***BLESSING**
The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

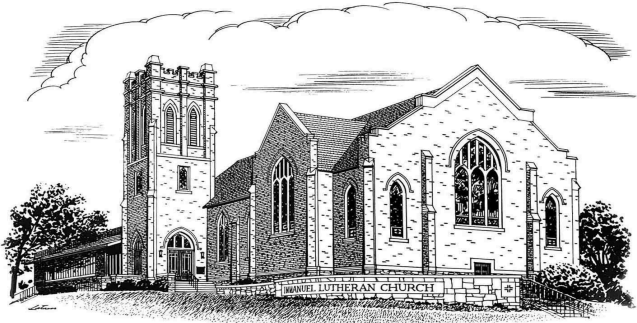
***SENDING HYMN**
“**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**” **ELW Hymn 288**

***DISMISSAL**
Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE
"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice," by Paul Manz (1919-2009)
Based on ELW 288

Welcome to Worship

**First Sunday of Christmas
Service of Lessons and Carols**



**December 28, 2025
10:00 a.m.**



First Sunday in Christmas
Service of Lessons and Carols

December 28, 2025
10:00 a.m.

Find page numbers in the front of the ELW
(red hymnal), and hymns in the back.

Bold=All

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

"Of the Father's Love Begotten," by Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Based on ELW 295

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,
you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,
you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.
You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:
Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.
At this font, holy God, we pray:
Praise to you for the water of baptism
and for your Word that saves us in this water.

Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.
Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW Hymn 275

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

“Angels We Have Heard on High” ELW Hymn 289 | Verses 1 & 3

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and
yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine
life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son,
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-9

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*CAROL: **“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

ELW Hymn 272

SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-5

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight rulers.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*CAROL: **“‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”**

ELW Hymn 284

THIRD LESSON: John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-17

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into
being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What
has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all
people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not
overtake it. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into
the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet
the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own
people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in
his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born,
not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen
his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law
indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus
Christ.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*CAROL: **“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”**

ELW Hymn 295

FOURTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

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

⁶ ‘And 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.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the
exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to
Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you
have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him
homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead
of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over
the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the
child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage.
Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to
return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*CAROL: **“Lully, Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child”**

see insert

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of
Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be
designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according
to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two
young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this
man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of
Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him