



**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**Lessons and Carols**  
**Sunday, December 28, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Rev. Stephanie White**

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons and Carols

December 28, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we 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.*

*The tradition of Lessons and Carols services goes back to 19<sup>th</sup> century England. This service proclaims the Word not through a sermon but through nine ‘lessons’ or scripture readings and nine accompanying carols. Today’s service honors the structure of this traditional service while incorporating different scripture readings and carols to tell the Christmas story.*

*Today’s service is slightly adapted from the liturgy “We Sing This Story: a Lessons and Carols Service for Christmastide” by Rev. Anna Strickland, A Sanctified Art LLC ([sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)).*

Key to hymnals in the pews:

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red); page numbers are in front, hymns in back

WOV = With One Voice (blue); page numbers are in front, hymns in back

STS = Spirit Touching Spirit (grey)

\* = Please rise

## GATHERING

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*We welcome all who are gathered with us for worship, whether in person or via the livestream! If you are worshipping with us via the livestream, please send an e-mail to [redeemer@gvtel.com](mailto:redeemer@gvtel.com) to let us know from where you are worshipping.*

*As we will be singing a hymn during the collection of the offering, during the announcements please take a moment to sign the red Friendship Pad at the end of the pew and pass it along.*

**\*Call to Worship** (based on Isaiah 2:2-5)

In the days to come,  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of mountains,  
and shall be raised over the hills;  
**all the nations shall stream to it.**

Many peoples shall come and say,  
**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and we may walk in his paths."**  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;**  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
**nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.**

O house of Jacob, come,  
**let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

**\*Processional Carol**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*All turn and face the processional cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

ELW #283

## O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Jesus, to thee be . . . glory giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Father now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glor - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Father now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Amid troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin  
and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection. Those who wish to may kneel.*

God of mercy,

**Forgive our lack of faith and trust.**

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

**Forgive our neglect of the poor.**

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

**Forgive our selfishness and complacency.**

Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace.

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.**

**We confess that we have turned from your gifts  
and chosen our own way.**

**We have not made room for you  
in our hearts or in our world.**

**We have lived in fear;  
we have not welcomed the stranger;  
we desire gifts that will not endure.**

**Forgive our sins, known and unknown,  
and open us to receive the peace of Jesus  
dwelling in and among us.**

**Amen.**

**\*Carol of Repentance**

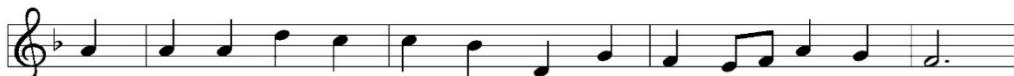
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
stanza 4

ELW #279

## O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

With great joy the angels proclaimed,

“Do not be afraid!

For I bring you good news of great Joy!

Today is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord!”

We are saved – not by anything we have done,  
but by God’s mercy poured out on us richly in Christ.

In Jesus + our sins are forgiven.

May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens.

God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

**Amen!**

## He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## \*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**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.**

## WORD

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

## The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

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

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek 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.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

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

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be -neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov -'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876  
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

## The Second Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## The Third Lesson: Matthew 1:1-17

<sup>1</sup>An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, <sup>4</sup>and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of

Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,<sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,<sup>7</sup> and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,<sup>8</sup> and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,<sup>9</sup> and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,<sup>10</sup> and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,<sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup>And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel,<sup>13</sup> and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,<sup>14</sup> and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,<sup>15</sup> and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,<sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

<sup>17</sup>So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

**Carol**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ELW #272

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grace ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - cage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half-spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half-spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Matthes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

## The Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and

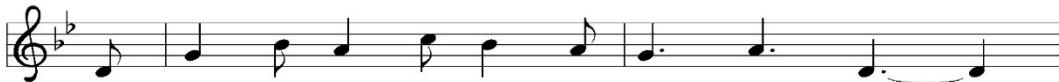
will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

ELW #265

**The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Glo

ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

## The Fifth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>8</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Carol**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
stanzas 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8

ELW #257

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

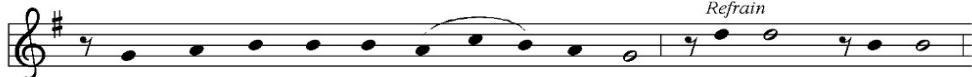


1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

*Refrain*



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'ly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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## The Sixth Lesson: Luke 1:39-58

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

## Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -

God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great . . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
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## The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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.

### Carol

### *O Little Town of Bethlehem* stanzas 1-3

ELW #279

### O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



## The Eighth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW #270

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled.  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"'  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

## The Ninth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

## Offering Carol

### *The First Noel*

ELW #300

The offering will be collected during stanzas 1-4;  
the offering will be brought forward during stanza 5.

## \*Affirmation of Faith (based on John 1:1-14)

In the Beginning was the Word  
**and the Word was with God,**  
**and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through him**  
**and without him not one thing came into being.**

What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness,**  
**and the darkness did not overtake it.**

There was a man sent from God whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify to the light,  
So that all might believe in him.  
**He himself was not the light,**  
**but he came to testify to the light.**

The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.

**He was in the world,  
and the world came into being through him,  
yet the world did not know him**

He came to what was his own,  
and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him,  
who believed in his name,  
**he gave the power to become children of God,**  
who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or the will of man,  
but of God.

**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. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the People**

...In the light of the manger we pray;  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

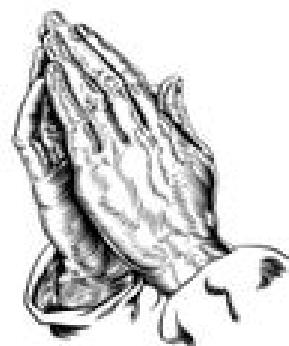
**\*Lord's Prayer**

**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**



## **SENDING**

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

### **\*Benediction and Threefold Amen** (based on Luke 2:29-32 and Luke 1:78-79)

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word;  
**for my eyes have seen your salvation,**  
**which you prepared in the presence of all peoples,**  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
**and for the glory of your people, Israel.**

By the tender mercies of God,  
**the dawn from on high has broken in upon us,**  
to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
**to guide our feet into the way of peace!**  
God the Creator who delights in you,  
Jesus the Savior who is born for you,  
and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you  
☩ Bless you and keep you in hope and peace!

**\*Sending Carol**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

ELW #290

## 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 Say - 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

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in peace! Share the joy of Jesus!

**Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

ASSISTING IN MINISTRY TODAY 9:30 A.M.

Presiding: Rev. Stephanie White

Acolytes:

Ushers: Denice Nelson

Lector: Denice Nelson

Serving at the Altar: Polly Gustafson and Denice Nelson

Organist: Reid Froiland

Cantor: Chris Cuppett

Video: Dave Ulrich

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# *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

Tom Gustafson, Mark & Kathi Jenkins, Tamara Vaughan, Darren Bakke, Shawn Groven, Mason Laidley, Joyce White, Cindy Hughes, Jim Potucek, Rick Harbott, Sara LaFayette Valentine, Michelle Kasprick, Shari Safranski, Bob and Barb Horien, Rick and Tami Hanson, Rose Teie, and Fern Melbye.

## **Financial stewardship**

**2025 Budget**

**\$329,106.00**

**Needed monthly**

**\$27,425.50**

**Needed Weekly**

**\$6,328.96**

Altar flowers are given by Rocky and Barb Ammerman in memory of Leslie and Dionne also by Tom Kays in memory of Dianne

Blessed be their memory.

**Quarterly statements** are available upon request; please contact Marit at the church office.

**Week Ending December 21, 2025**

**\$2,271.00**

**Weekly Shortage/Overage  
(\$4,057.96)**



**Volunteers are needed to read, usher and serve communion.** If you can help out in any of these roles, please fill out a volunteer sheet found on our new church app. Thank you for sharing your time and talents.

**Soulfood Youth Group** for grades 6 through 12 will meet the first Sunday of every month beginning at 6pm with a light meal. Come and hang out, it's good for the soul!

**A Capital Campaign has begun!** Redeemer is currently facing upcoming projects/repairs. Some are costly and some – not so much but we don't have the

funds to pay for them. Prayerfully consider making a donation. Please make your check to Redeemer and designate Capital Campaign on the memo line.

Projects:

1. Replacing the shingles on the roof.
2. Replacing the doors on the East and West sides.
3. Repair/replace dishwasher.
4. Upgrade current computer system.

For more information, contact a Church Council member.

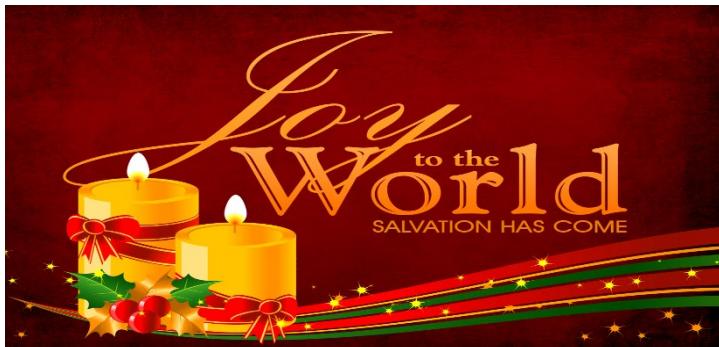
Jan Nordin, Missy Hall, Leona Bugge, Scott Dcamp, Terri Cuppett  
Ken Froschheiser, and Deb Jacobson.

Thank you and God Bless!

**The new offering envelopes** are here and available for you in the Narthex.

**The new address** for John and Dee Wollenzien is:

1610 7<sup>th</sup> St. S. Apt. 206  
Moorhead, MN 56560





# December Birthdays

## December Birthdays –

**1** – Hannah Bugge, Hunter Bugge **2** – Todd Collins, Jennifer Nelson, Ashley Hesse, David Forsberg, Tammy Swick **3** – Luke Solheim, Ridge Fisher **4** – Alexis Dennis, Scott Hickerson **5** – Ryker Olson, Zane Olson, Kia Green, Mikkel Jorde **6** – Joel Lunsetter, Harrison Bayne, Makson Landgren, Darrel Cory **7** – Layton Fuentes **8** – Blaine Kostrzewski, Patrick Barry **9** – Gerald Helle, Hunter Miller **10** – Bev Thompson, Dale Dillon **11** – Dylan Johnson **12** – Michael Harstad **13** - Cory Gustafson, Cody Sele, John Houske, Trent Beito **14** – Kenny Kain, Anthony McLean **15** – Paula Adamson **16** – Alden Haugen, Heather Thibert **17** – Robby Philipp, Chris Kramer, Adrian Solheim **18** – Alaina Stokke, Mark Jenkins **19** – Cash Harbott **20** – **21** - Katie Nelson, Lucy Dagg-Savich **22** – **23** - **24** – Jan Anderson **25** – Roger Philipp **26** – Reed Waterworth, Journey Sorenson **27** – Kylie Westling, Nate Stroh **28** –Corbyn Kertz, Megan Eickman, Wenda Sumrall **29** – Penny Harder **30** – Haeli Stokke **31** –

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

1300 Nora St. E.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

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Web: [www.redeemertrf.org](http://www.redeemertrf.org)

Email: [redeemer@gvtel.com](mailto:redeemer@gvtel.com)

Rev. Stephanie White, *pastor*  
Dianne Stroh, *administrative assistant*  
Marit Martell, *financial secretary*  
Mike Lundgren, *custodian*  
Jan Nordin, *council president*

Reid Froiland, *organist/liturgist/choir director*  
Chris Cuppett, *cantor*  
Paula Adamson, Greg Dally, and Dean Dalen,  
*staff musicians*  
Dave Ulrich, *videographer*