



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

*January 4, 2026*

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

(907) 488-6720    [www.lordoflifeak.com](http://www.lordoflifeak.com)

*Assistant Minister = blue*

*Welcome!* Words in **bold** are said together.

Children are always welcome - they worship God too! Cloth bags with quiet activities are by the stairs to keep them engaged during worship. Our nursery is at the bottom of the stairs, to the left.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray:

**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.**

### *Confession and Forgiveness*

*Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, wonderful counselor, mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. Congregation: Amen.*

*L: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. (silence for reflection)*

*L: Reconciling God, C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.*

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

*L: God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! C: Amen.*

### *Gathering Hymn – All My Heart Again Rejoices #273*

1. All my heart again rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;  
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing, 'til the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.
2. Jesus' voice from lowly manger softly thus calls to us:  
"You are safe from danger; Come and see;

from all that grieves you you are freed; all you need I will surely give you.”

3. Come, then, let us hasten yonder; here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder;  
Love him who with love is yearning; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.
4. You, dear Lord, I'll ever cherish; Though my breath fail in death, I will never perish:  
By your side in light eternal I shall be endlessly filled with joy supernal.

*Prayer of the Day* — **Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### *Scripture Readings*

Jeremiah 31:7-14 p. 641

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.” <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

Psalms 147:12-20 p. 507

<sup>12</sup> Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**<sup>13</sup> For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**<sup>15</sup> He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**<sup>17</sup> He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold?**

<sup>18</sup> He sends out his word and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**<sup>19</sup> He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

**All: <sup>20</sup> He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the Lord!**

Ephesians 1:3-14 p. 949

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption

through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation (sung) p. 102, setting 1*

\*Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

The holy Gospel according to *John*. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:1-18 p. 862

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

David Ingram

*Hymn of the Day– Of the Father's Love Begotten #295 v. 1-4*

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.
2. Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.
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.

4. Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.

### *Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### *Prayers of God's People*

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," please respond: **hear our prayer.**

*Sharing the Peace – L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.*

### *Offering*

◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705

◇ Online: "giving" tab at [www.lordoflifeak.com/giving](http://www.lordoflifeak.com/giving) or the QR Code →

◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the instructions. Giving is secure.



### *Offering Hymn – He Came Down #253*

1. He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

Verse 2: light  
Verse 3: peace  
Verse 4: joy

### *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 the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*The Great Thanksgiving p. 107*

*Holy, Holy, Holy p. 108*

*Christ's Words of Institution and Communion*

*L: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!*

## *Post Communion Prayer*

*L: 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. C: Amen.*

## *Announcements*

- Today after worship we're taking down Christmas decorations
- Please take home a poinsettia!

## *Closing Hymn – Angels from the Realms of Glory #275*

1. Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

## *Blessing*

*L: The triune God, glorious mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. C: Amen.*

## *Dismissal*

*L: Glory to God in the highest! C: And peace to God's people on earth!*

*L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. C: Thanks be to God!*

## ***Special Thanks to...***

Assistant Minister,  
Video, Aleshire Family  
Ushers/Acolyte,  
Greeter(s),  
Fellowship,

Reader,  
PowerPoint,  
Communion Prep,  
Sunday School,

## ***Birthdays & Anniversaries***

1-7 Katy Castor