



**KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
101 VANCE ST. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081**

**December 28, 2025**

**10:00 am**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**†** Please stand as you are able.  
Congregation responses in **Bold**.

**PRELUDE**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*arr. Jason D. Payne*

**WELCOME**

**†CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, **†** one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**C** Amen.

**P** Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** 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.**

**P** 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**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*Next Page*

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

† GATHERING HYMN *ELW 270**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

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!"

† KYRIE *ELW S184*

*Refrain*

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.  
 Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for  
 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

† PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LET'S TALK

*Children's Time*

## READING Isaiah 63:7-9

L A reading from sixty-third chapter of Isaiah.

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior <sup>9</sup> in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

## † GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW S188*

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **GOSPEL** Matthew 2:13-23

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

*In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.*

**N**ow after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” <sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: <sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” <sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

## **SERMON**

*Pastor John Futterer*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*What Child is This*

*Next Page*

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

*See Insert*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A Please kneel or be seated for the Prayers of God's People.

*Prayer petitions will conclude: "Hear us, O God."*

*The congregation's response is: "Your mercy is great."*

P With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

## † SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

A Please greet those around you with words of peace.

## OFFERING

*The offering plates are in the narthex for your use. You may also place your offering in the plate at the communion rail when you come forward for communion. Please ask an usher if you have any questions.*

## † OFFERING PRESENTATION *ELW 186*

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

## HOLY COMMUNION

*We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Gluten-free is available on request. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the  
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C 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.

## INVITATION

P God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

**Receive the Elements as the words are said:**  
*The Body of Christ given for you; The Blood of Christ shed for you.*

*Healing Prayer is available under the balcony during Communion if you desire prayer.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

*arr. Joel Ramey*

*Handbell Quartet: Anne Futterer, Kim Kane, Christina Roland, and Sally Peterson*

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,

where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

### ✚ POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
 C Amen.

## † POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*



Musical notation for the first line of the Post Communion Canticle, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



Musical notation for the second line of the Post Communion Canticle, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Musical notation for the third line of the Post Communion Canticle, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



Musical notation for the fourth line of the Post Communion Canticle, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes.

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

## BENEDICTION

P The triune God, glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  
† bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Next Page

## DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

arr. Mary McDonald

† SENDING HYMN **ELW 290**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

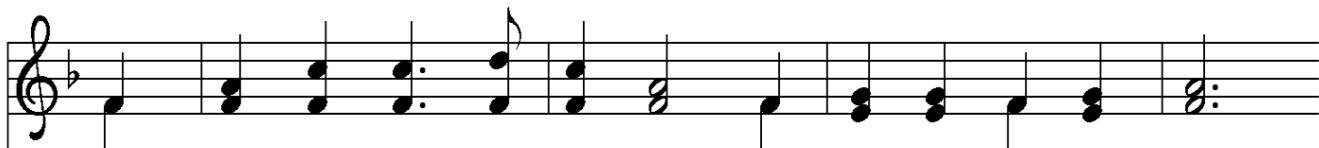
*Refrain*



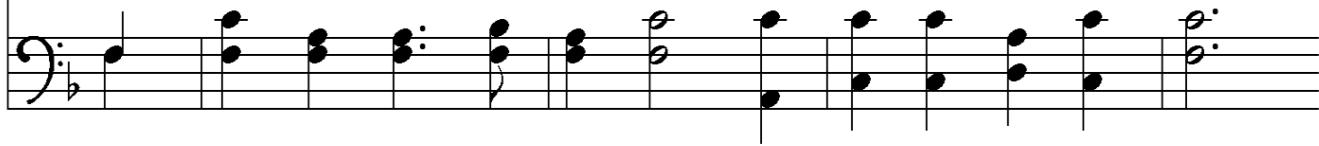
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



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 Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.





## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### **Sunday, December 28, 2025 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

### **Thursday, January 1, 2026 Name of Jesus**

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

### **Friday, January 2, 2026 Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872**

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

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