welcome to worship THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD/CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025 ♦ 11:00 am



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement

5 Wyomissing Boulevard
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081
phone: 610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org
The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

The assembly's responses are in bold print.

PRELUDE S

Sing We Now of Christmas/God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. Griffin

CHRISTMAS GREETING

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING

Luke 2:1-7

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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Bells Are Ringing

Susan Nipp

Bells are ringing, bells are ringing, Baby Jesus born today, Bells are ringing, bells are ringing, Baby Jesus born today. Celebrate his birth in Bethlehem, celebrate his birth with joy,

Bells are ringing, bells are ringing, Baby Jesus born today.

SECOND READING Luke 2:8-14

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!"

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Wake Up!

Tracey Lloyd and Herbert Chappell

We can hardly believe our eyes. We were sitting here guarding our sheep,

Huddled from the snow in the firelight glow, trying hard not to sleep, when suddenly:

Refrain:

Wake up! I think I see an angel. Wake up! There's angels in the sky.

Wake up! There's no need to be frightened.

Follow the golden star through the wintry sky.

And the angel was dressed in gold. And he told us all marvelous things:

Jesus will be born on this very morn, he is the King of Kings, so all of you... Refrain

Come with us! Hurry to the manger, hurry, hurry to the infant King.

Come with us, telling every stranger all about this wonderful thing when suddenly

The sky was alive with wings, and the angels hovered, singing their song,

Telling us all 'bout a child so small who was born to right each wrong. So all of you...

Refrain

THIRD 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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

Tracey Lloyd and Herbert Chappell

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo, praise the Baby Boy,

"Peace on Earth, good will to all" is the angels' song of joy.

Here at last is Baby Jesus, lying on a bed of hay.

Just the way the angels told us, welcome Christmas Day. Refrain

Now the beasts have come to worship, crowding in as best they may,

Circling around the manger, welcome Christmas Day. Refrain

Everyone has come to worship, kneeling round him in the hay.

Welcoming the infant Jesus. Happy Christmas Day! Refrain

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Lauryn

The assembly remains seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY 296

What Child Is This

HOMILY

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth. Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way. In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

If you brought an offering today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



Susan Nipp

OFFERTORY

Born This Night

Born this night in Bethlehem, Baby Jesus, tiny Child.

Alleluia, praise the King, Baby Jesus born today.

Kneel before him as he sleeps, Baby Jesus, tiny Child.

Alleluia, praise the King, Baby Jesus born today.

Worship Him, our Savior's come, Baby Jesus, tiny Child.

Alleluia, praise the King, Baby Jesus born today.

Following the offering, the assembly stands.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 boy, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

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

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the attendance pads found in the pews, then check in to Atonement on your favorite social media platform, share a photo with your digital community, and say something gentle in the spirit of Jesus!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 282 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 300 The First Noel

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God-come-to-earth, 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 every-day moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

BLESSING

May God bless you, keep you, + be gracious to you.

May God give you grace never to sell yourself - or God - short.

Grace to risk something big for something good.

Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love.

So may God take your mind and think through it.

May God take your lips and speak through them.

May God take your hands and do good with them.

May God take your heart and set it on fire. Amen.

Angels We Have Heard on High

SENDING HYMN 289

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God's people on earth! Go in joy. Let your light shine! Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Harmon

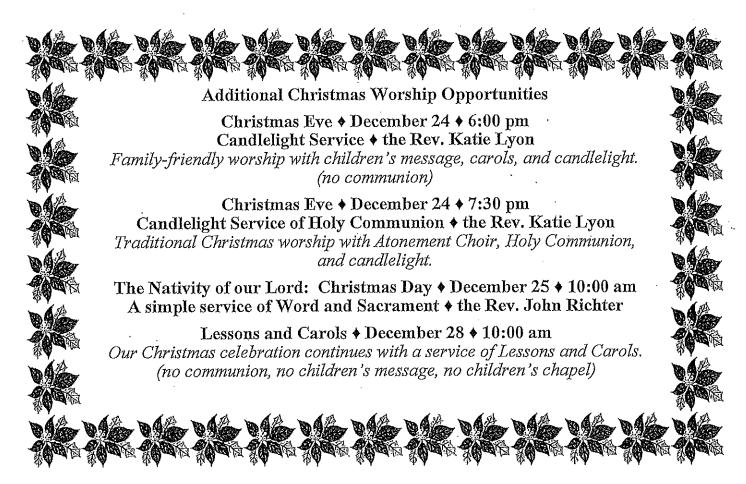
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Assisting with Worship

Susan Beam, Greeter • Usher Teams 2 & 3
Emily Shirk, assisting minister

Gail Dawson-White, Precious Johnson-Agiri, Diane Melcher, Tracy Ravert, Communion Assistants Crystal Shirk, Zoe Shirk, audio/visual

> Karen Sandloop, altar captain ♦ Kaia Arana Lyon, sexton Atonement Children's Choir



WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space. The nursery is not staffed today, but the privacy room behind the nave is available for families who would like additional wiggle room.

HEARING DEVICES are available for those who have trouble hearing the service—ask an usher or stop by the sound booth on you way into the worship space.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed until Monday, January 5. Please leave a voicemail at the office or email cshirk@atonementwyo.org if you need anything, we will be checking in periodically throughout the holiday break.

HOLOCAUST PRESENTATION given by the family of a local survivor will take place during the faith formation hour on January 11.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION will not meet again until January 18.

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN resumes January 11 in the choir room at 8:45.

A PLACE AT THE TABLE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be held the Sundays of January 4, 11, and 18, 8:45-9:45 am. The communion celebration for those students will be January 25 during 10:00 am worship.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to atonementwyo.org and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page. We are especially in need of LARGER SIZED MEN'S CLOTHING.

2025 PLEDGES should be close to fulfillment. If you are unsure of your remaining pledge, please email Amy Rogers at arogers@atonementwyo.org, or reach out at 610-375-3512 x110.

MONETARY GIFTS FOR COMMON GROUND can be placed in the offering or the box next to the angel tree. Mark your donation "Common Ground".

USHER TEAMS are being revised for 2026—if you would like to be added to a team please email cshirk@atonementwyo.org to be added to one of the teams! The commitment is about once every 6 weeks.

ATTENDANCE PADS are used to keep our records accurate. Please let us know you are here by signing the attendance sheet in your pew—thank you!

Atonement Lutheran Church presents

Minter Monderland Dance

Saturday, January 17 5-7 PM Lundin Hall

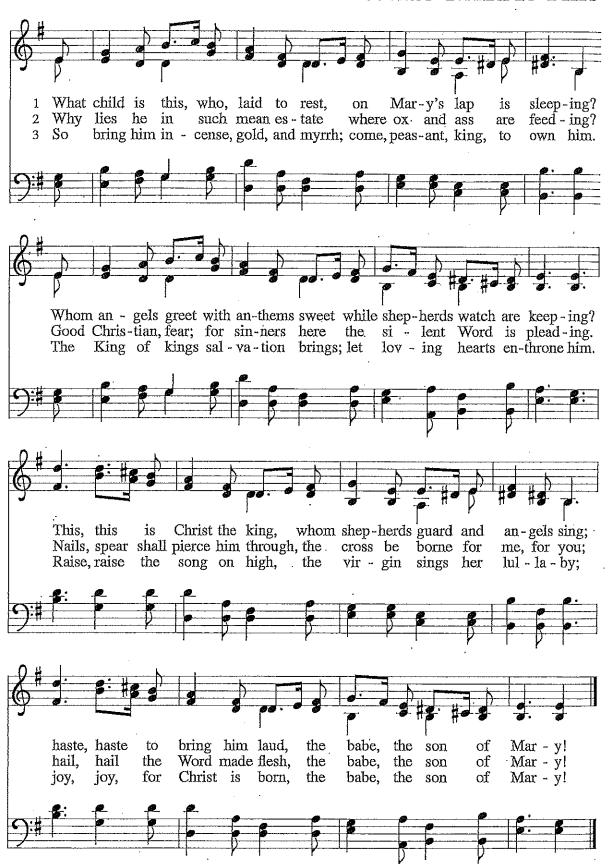
DJ * Dancing * Snacks Photo Booth * Fun All ages welcome

look for a sign up genius soon ®



296

What Child Is This



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

279

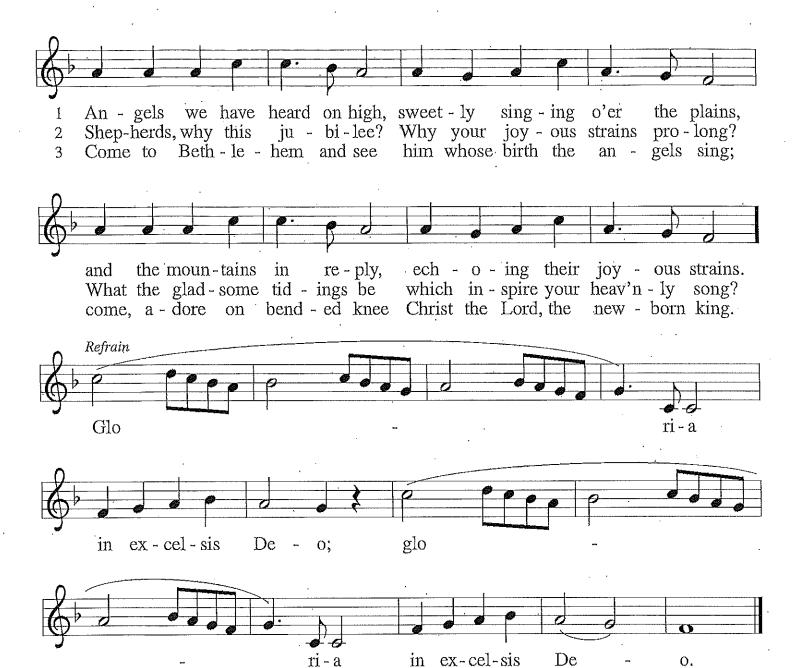
O Little Town of Bethlehem



It Came upon the Midnight Clear

282







Born is the

King

of

Is

ra - el.

Text: English traditional

el.

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

No -

el!