

# First Lutheran Church

MILES CITY, MONTANA



Christmas Eve Service of the Word  
December 24, 2025 • 4:00 p.m.



✨ **WELCOME!** Merry Christmas! We are glad you are here.

This bulletin contains the entire order of worship, including all readings, prayers, and hymns. Please follow along and participate as you are comfortable.

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### **Opening Litany – The Light Shines in the Darkness**

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

L: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.

**C: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

L: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C: The Light no darkness can overcome.**

L: Let us worship Him.

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### **Confession and Forgiveness**

L: We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

L: Calling to mind our need for God's mercy and grace, let us confess our sin to the One who walks with us through our human life.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

L: God of life and light,

**C: You join us in our humanity through your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, and you know our frailties and failings. Pardon our selfishness, release us from captivity to all that leads us away from you, center our lives on the manger and the cross, and restore us to a right relationship with you.**

L: God who is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love, forgives you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. May He strengthen you to live and serve as His faithful people in the world.

**C: Amen.**

## Opening Hymn: LBW #45 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” verses 1-3

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!*

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of God, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, in the highest! [Refrain]*

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### Greeting and Prayer of the Day

L: May the light of Christ which shatters the darkness of sin and death enlighten your days. 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.**

L: Almighty God, you made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that we, who celebrate the birth of Your Son, may walk in the light of Your presence and rejoice in the glory of His appearing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

**C: This new covenant was sealed at our Savior's birth.**

L: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.

**C: And a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

**C: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

L: This one whom the prophets foretold is the Messiah,

**C: The King of kings and the Lord of lords. It is He whom we worship; it is He whom we adore.**

L: We light the Christ candle in celebration of His birth.

**C: The Light of the world has come.**

*(The Christ Candle is lit.)*

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**Vocal Duet**

**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

Kristine & Kinley Harding

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### First Reading

#### Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Hymn: LBW #54 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" verses 1-2**

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious king,  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing  
And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

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**Second Reading**

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

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**◆ THE WORD**

L: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

**C: Alleluia. To us a Child is born; to us a Son is given. Alleluia.**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-20

**C: Glory to You, O Lord**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came

for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.  
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

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Sermon  
Mark Joblinske

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Vocal Solo	“InnKeeper”	Mallore Vera
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## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Responsive Prayers for Christmas

L: It is You, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**C: In a field, a stable, in our homes and hearts, You meet us.**

L: We pray for the whole church, that the Good News proclaimed this night would bring hope to the world.

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

L: For peace among nations and peace in our homes,

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

L: For all who suffer, grieve, or are alone this night,

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

L: For all gathered here, and for those dear to us who are far away,

**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy.

**C: Amen.**

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### **Hymn: LBW #71** “Angels We Have Heard on High” verses 1, 3

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plain,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo; Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Glo-ria in excelsis Deo; Glo-ria in excelsis Deo.*

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### **The 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.***

## Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*(Please share the peace of Christ with those near you.)*

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**Vocal Solo**

**“O Holy Night”**

Joyce Vera

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## ✦ SERVICE OF LIGHT

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

L: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

**C: The Light no darkness can overcome.**

L: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**C: and the day is almost over.**

L: Let Your light scatter the darkness,

**C: and illumine Your Church.**

*(Candles throughout the congregation  
are lit from the Christ candle.)*

**C: Joyous light of heavenly glory,**

**of the immortal Father—**

**beloved, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**

**We have come to the setting of the sun,**

**and we look to the evening light.**

**We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:**

**You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.**

**O Son of God, O Giver of life:**

**The universe proclaims Your glory.**

**Hymn: LBW #65    “Silent Night”**

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*[you may extinguish your candles]*

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**Christmas Blessing and Dismissal**

L: The God who calls us into His presence has clothed His people with the garments of salvation; He has covered us with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. Go now, trusting in His love for you, and live as His precious people.

**C: Amen.**

L: Go in peace! God's Word has been fulfilled.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Closing Hymn: LBW #39 “Joy to the World” verses 1-4**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ!  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, and wonders of His love.*

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**Postlude**

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*We invite you to worship with us and receive Holy Communion  
Christmas Day at 10 a.m.*