



## **Christmas Eve Service – December 24, 2025**

### ***Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church***

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for worship this evening. May all the blessings of the Christmas season follow you into the new year!

#### **CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING:**

People who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

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

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

#### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty Savior,

Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**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.**

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!  
**Amen.**

### **Opening Hymn - #300 *The First Noel***

#### **Prayer of the Day**

**Let us pray**

**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.**

#### **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
 and all the garments rolled in blood  
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
 a son given to us;  
 authority rests upon his shoulders,  
 and he is named  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority,  
 and there shall be endless peace  
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
 He will establish and uphold it  
 with justice and with righteousness  
 from this time onward and forevermore.  
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 96**

**R** Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (*Ps. 96:11*)

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD | a new song;  
 sing to the LORD, | all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup> **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**  
**proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup> Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations  
 and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup> **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**  
**more to be feared | than all gods. R**  
<sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
 but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup> **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**  
**power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,  
 ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.  
<sup>8</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**  
**bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R**  
<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
 tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

<sup>10</sup> **Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the  
peo- | ples with equity.”**

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

<sup>12</sup> **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,  
for you come to | judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup> You will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peoples | with your truth. **R**

### **Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God’s grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.  
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of  
our Savior’s final appearance.*

<sup>11</sup> The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce  
impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,  
upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory  
of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might  
redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for  
good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God’s greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of  
great joy” and proclaim God’s blessing of peace.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest  
room.

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same 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> and 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, just as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day #289 *Angels We Have Heard on High***

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

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

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

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

### **Invitation to Communion**

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

*All who desire communion on this day are welcome to commune with us and partake in the promise of eternal life by Jesus Christ himself. In solidarity with our siblings in recovery, we use non-alcoholic wine. Please indicate if you would like a gluten free communion wafer. If you do not wish to take communion, you are still invited to ask the Vicar for a blessing before you leave. Traditionally, those who commune are baptized into the Christian faith. If you are not baptized and would like to learn more about what it means to be baptized and share in the meal at the Lord's Supper Table, please talk with Vicar Elaine Robbins.*

### **Communion Hymn – Special Music by Keira Albright**

### **Prayer after Communion**

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.  
**Amen.**

### **Sending**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES:** *The minister lights her candle. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. **The lighted candle is never tilted** but is held upright when giving light to another.*

**The Gospel of the Incarnation:** John 1:1-14

**HYMN OF LIGHT: #281** *Silent Night, Holy Night!*

### **Blessing**

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

*The candles are extinguished, and overhead lights are turned on.*

**SENDING HYMN: #267** *Joy to the World*

### **Dismissal**

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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***PRESIDING MINISTER: Elaine Robbins***  
***ASSISTING MINISTER: David Decet***  
***USHERS: Volunteers***  
***MUSICIAN: Michele Albright***



*Thank you to everyone who shared poinsettias, whether in Honor of or Memory of loved ones, or to adorn our sanctuary to the Glory of God!*

**In Memory of Loved Ones** from Tom & Karen Derwin

**In Memory of Mary Livermore** from Norma Dick, Emily Cook, & Braylin Calhoun

**In Memory of our Parents** from Dan & Joanie Hinsa

**In Memory of Esther & Leonard Burkhalter and In Memory of Bill & Ellen Perttula**  
from Jim & Deb Perttula

**In Memory Braden Petska** from Patsy LaCombe

**In Memory of Dianna Jarvis & Connie Eade** from Zac & Stephanie LeVeque

**In Memory of Helen & Gary Mattson** from Harry & Elaine Robbins  
**Given in thanks to God for Oliver "Ollie" LeVeque** from Papa Harry & Granny Elaine

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**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Anne Balko, Tara Henry,  
Larry Tweedale, Margi Beauchaine Kirby, and Sharon Seaberg.

**Nursing Home:** Norma Secreast

**Assisted Living:** Pepper VanLandschoot (Jacobetti), Pauline Elavsky – Harbour View,  
and Jane Guyott

**In Service:** Craig Oas, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Peter Peterson, Mathew Moilanen, and our veterans who have returned to their communities.

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**Join us on December 28<sup>th</sup> for a Lessons and Carols service. We will also be showing the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary video.**

**Following the service on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> we will have a snack – potluck and be playing BINGO – all are welcome!**

**CHURCH CONTACT INFO:** Please note the email addresses you should use for contacting the office and the pastor. Office: [eden@jamadots.com](mailto:eden@jamadots.com) Pastor: [pastorofeden@gmail.com](mailto:pastorofeden@gmail.com)