



Christmas Day Worship Service  
December 25, 2025 | 10:00am  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church—Aloha

# Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 2025

## Welcome & Greeting

## Opening Hymn

### *Joy to the World*

LW #53

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n 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, wonders of His love.

## Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## Call to Worship (Isaiah 60:1, 9:2,6, 1 Peter 2:9)

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

P: To us a child is born. To us a son is a given.

C: And the government will be upon His shoulders, and He will be called

P: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: We proclaim the praises of Him,

P: who called us out of darkness

C: into His marvelous light!

## Confession and Absolution

P: The Holy Spirit has shone the light of God's love into our hearts, giving us faith to believe that the darkness of our sin has indeed been dispelled by the coming of Christ in the flesh. Let us, therefore, go to God's throne of grace, confessing our sins.

P: Wonderful Counselor,

Men: *we confess that we have listened to the advice of the dark world around us.*

*Women: We have let the gloom of the nations and the difficulties of our personal lives blind us to the light of Your love.*

**ALL: Forgive us.**

**P:** Mighty God,

*Women: we confess that we have given too much power to the forces of evil in this world of sin.*

*Men: We have failed to recognize You as glorious Lord over all.*

**ALL: Forgive us.**

**P:** Everlasting Father,

*Men: we confess that in our daily dilemmas we have forgotten the great forgiving love that prompted Christ to become one of us to die for us.*

*Women: We have not always sought to live in Your light.*

**ALL: Forgive us.**

**P:** Prince of Peace,

*Women: we confess that we have not recognized the peace that You have brought to our troubled lives.*

*Men: We do not let it fill our hearts and minds.*

**ALL: Forgive us.**

**P:** Dear friends in Christ, to us a Child is born; to us God's Son is given! Christ's eternal reign has broken through to our time and place with the brilliant light of His mercy and forgiveness. Hear the good news! Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**C: Amen.**

### Hymn of Response

#### *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

**LW #47 v1-2**

Now sing we, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice.  
Life's most precious treasure here poor in manger lies;  
He brings purer pleasure than sunlight from the skies.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

God's Son, come from above, Your grace and saving love  
To my spirit bringing, O pure and holy Child,  
Fill my heart with singing for grace so great and mild.  
Draw me, Lord, to You! Draw me, Lord, to You!

We see God's love divine for us in Jesus shine.  
Guilt of sin had taught us but death and misery;  
Then our Ransom bought us God's bright eternity.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Where is that place so fair? Oh, nowhere else but there  
Where the angel voices with God's redeemed unite,  
Awed that He rejoices to share His joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

### Prayer of the Day

**P:** Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the glory of Your Son's birth for us and for our salvation.

**C:** Open our minds to understand, our hearts to believe, and our mouths to proclaim the glory of Him who took on human flesh to suffer and die in our place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

<sup>6</sup> 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.  
<sup>7</sup> 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Romans 1:1-6*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 10:38-41*

<sup>38</sup> Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." <sup>41</sup> But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things..."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for \*us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(\* "us men" means "all people")

## Hymn of the Day

### *Once in Royal David's City*

LW #58

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and low lived our Savior long ago.

But our eyes in truth should see Him through His own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
As He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heav'n, set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!

## Sermon

### *Beyond the Stable*

Bob Baker, Elder

## Offering

*Bringing tithes and financial gifts to the Lord is an act of worship. These offerings help to accomplish ministry both here at Bethlehem and around the world. May God bless your response of faith.*

Please join our members in signing the Red Friendship Register in your pew. Thank you!

## Offertory

### *What Child is This?*

LW #61

What Child is this, Who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high; the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

## Prayers of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, open our hearts to Your Spirit that we may welcome our Lord with faith and proclaim His coming; Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Fill us with the joy of His birth that we may not give in to sorrow or disappointment but rejoice in His gifts today and always; Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Keep us faithful amid all the changes of this mortal life and in the face of so many temptations; Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Bring peace and justice to all people; bring an end to war and violence; give relief to all victims of natural disaster, and help us all work together for the common good; Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Give healing and peace to those who need an extra measure of Your presence and love; Lord, in Your mercy.

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer** (*tune: Away In a Manger*)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name. Your Kingdom among us, Your will done the same. By mortals and angels, come Lord reign alone. O, hear us and bless us, from Heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day, as we forgive others, our sins take away. In times of temptation, come to us be near, from evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign, and Yours is the power, all things You maintain. To You be the glory, resounding again, from all of creation, forever! Amen.

### **Words of Institution**

#### **Agnus Dei** (*tune: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* LW #64)

O Lamb of God, who takes away our sin, Thy mercy grant.

O Lamb of God, who takes away our sin, Thy mercy grant.

O Lamb of God, who takes away our sin, now grant us Thy peace.

O Christ, O Lamb of God, lead us to Thine eternal feast.

### **Distribution of Holy Communion**

#### ***This is Jesus***

Night of wonder, still and silent.

Heaven's brilliance from above.

Light of glory pierced the darkness.

Mercy pierced my heart with love.

**Chorus:** This is Jesus, King of glory,  
Here to rescue from the fall.  
Son of God who comes to save us;  
Prince of peace and Lord of All.

Oh, the mystery, who could fathom,

God would leave His Holy throne.

For a manger, for a sinner,

For us all to be His own. **(chorus)**

Rejoice, He is with us.

Rejoice, Hope is here. **(repeat 3 times) (chorus)**

For the hearts so prone to wander,

For these feet so quick to flee;

God is here and love is reaching

For the lost and least of these.

## *Lo, How a Rose is Growing*

LW #67

Lo, how a rose is growing, a bloom of finest grace;  
The prophets had foretold it: a branch of Jesse's race  
Would bear one perfect flow'r here in the cold of winter  
And darkest midnight hour.

The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold.  
He came to us through Mary, who sheltered Him from cold.  
Through God's eternal will this child to us was given  
At midnight calm and still.

The shepherds heard the story the angels sang that night:  
How Christ was born of Mary; He was the Son of light.  
To Bethlehem they ran to find Him in the manger  
As angel heralds sang.

This flow'r, so small and tender, with fragrance fills the air;  
His brightness ends the darkness that kept the earth in fear.  
True God and yet true man, He came to save His people  
From earth's dark night of sin.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt all human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory, who triumphed o'er our foe:  
Bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven  
And into endless day.

## *Angels From the Realms of Glory*

LW #50

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.

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.

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.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

## **Communion Blessing**

P: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore  
You that of Your mercy You would strength us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward  
one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## **Thanksgiving** (*tune: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*)

Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,  
What He has done proclaim!  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
And proudly bear His name.  
Who leads His thankful people forth  
His promises to claim.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

Lord, let Your servant go in peace,  
Your Word has been fulfilled.  
My eyes have seen the saving work  
Which for the world You willed;  
The glory of Your chosen race  
And Light for all revealed.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.  
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy.

## Post Communion Prayer

P: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strength us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Closing Hymn

### *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

LW #504

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

P: Go in Peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**  
Text: medieval Latin hymn; tr. F. Samuel Janzow, b. 1913 Tune: German carol, 14th cent.  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**Once in Royal David's City**  
Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1823-95, alt.  
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**Lo, How a Rose is Growing**  
Text: German, 15th cen.; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, Koln, 1599  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**Go Tell It On the Mountain**  
Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1879-1925, stanzas, alt.  
Tune: African American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897-1960  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**What Child Is This**  
Text: William C Dix, 1837-98  
Tune: English ballad, 16th cent.  
Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014552

**This Is Jesus**  
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**Joy to the World**  
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.  
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**Angels from the Realms of Glory**  
Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854-, sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4; alt.  
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79  
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