

Sunday, December 28, 2025

**Welcome** *Pastor Jeff will give announcements and welcome*

**\*\*Call to Worship** (*Liturgist parts are indicated in BOLD and \*\**)

**\*\*Good Morning, I am Chris Ritter, and will be serving as Worship Leader today. Would you please stand as you are comfortable and able to join me in the responsive Call to Worship?**

**\*\*Leader: Praise God, all who dwell on this earth. Praise God in the heights and depths of life.**

People: We will recount the deeds of God. Surely God has shown us goodness and mercy.

**\*\*Leader: Praise God, sun and moon and stars. Praise God, fire and hail, snow and frost.**

People: Men and women, young and old, together: Let us praise and honor our Creator.

**\*\*Leader: Let God's name be praised and exalted. God's glory is above heaven and earth.**

People: By God's steadfast love, we are drawn to worship. Our gracious Savior leads us in new ways.

**\*\*Will you join us in our opening song, "What Child Is This", hymn #219, and the words will be on the screen.**

**\*\*Would you join with me in our Opening Prayer?**

**Redeemer of all who put their trust in you, we seek your presence here. Only our own attitudes can separate us from you. Re-create us in your own image so we may be true to your intentions for us and in tune with your purposes for our life together. In our times of distress, pour**

out your pity and your love that we may know we are not alone. Lift us up and carry us when our strength fails. Now, in the midst of this congregation, we would praise you and honor your name. Amen.

## Children's Time

## Community Notes

### Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts

*(Pastor Jeff will first do the prayers, Liturgist will read Invitation & pray)*

**\*\*Invitation:** We are invited to praise God with the offerings of our best. In the generous spirit of this season, we give thanks for God's providence with an answering generosity.

The needs of our brothers and sisters, both spiritual and material, cry out for the help we can give. What a privilege to act for God through our giving!

**\*\*Will you pray with me?** Awesome God, when we recount your gracious deeds and praiseworthy acts, we want to imitate them. Because of your mercy and favor and the abundance of your steadfast love, we are moved to respond. Thank you for the gift of life, for all you have entrusted to us, for your watchful care over us, for surrounding us with love when loss and suffering overwhelm us. It is when we give with generous hearts that we begin to understand how much we have been given. Thank you, God. Amen.

**Praise Song**      *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*      -Praise Team

**\*\*Scripture Reading**    Hebrews 2:10-18    NRSV

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will

proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.” Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**\*\*Scripture Reading Matthew 2:13-23 NRSV**

As this is a reading from the Gospel, please stand in body or spirit.

Now after they 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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 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.” 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. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “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.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream

to Joseph in Egypt and said, “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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 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. 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.”

**This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!**

**Message**    *“Holiness Always Wins”*    Pastor Craig Pahl

**Closing Song**    *“Joy to the World”*    Hymn #246

**Blessing for the Week**

**Choral Benediction**