



GRACE LUTHERAN

CHURCH • SCHOOL



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025 - 5:00 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 - 10:45 AM

(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"The First Noel"

[10:45] (Stand and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)



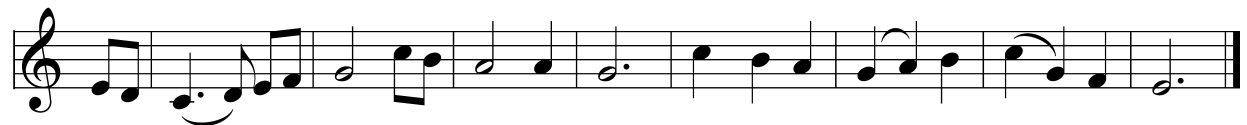
1 The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor
2 They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the
3 And by the light of that same star Three Wise Men
4 This star drew near to the north - west, O'er Beth - le -
5 Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, Full rev - 'rent -



shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay,
east be - yond them far; And to the earth it
came from coun - try far; To seek for a king was
hem it took its rest; And there it did both
ly u - pon their knee, And of - fered there in



keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
gave great light, And so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
their in - tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
stop and stay Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
His pre - sence Their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

*INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of ✠ the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***OPENING LITANY** (*from Psalm 98*)

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: **The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Pastor: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Pastor: Let the rivers clap their hands;

People: **let the hills sing for joy together.**

PRE-CONFESSION WORDS

Pastor: The Christ-child was born at Christmas not to condemn this world, but to save it. Even so, the Son of God comes as our Holy Lord who sees that we are in need of His forgiveness. So, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in! Therefore, we kneel before our Savior who was born in a stable and ask Him to remove our transgressions from us.

(Congregation may sit or kneel)

CONFESSION VERSE “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v. 4)

Hymn 361

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

(silence for meditation)

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our God is with us, and He has heard your confession. The hopes and fears of all our years are met in Him today. Through Jesus, a wondrous gift is given. Through Jesus, God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. As a servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of ✠ the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE*"Angels We Have Heard on High"***Hymn 368*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT*Pastor:** The Lord be with you.**People:** And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.**OLD TESTAMENT READING***Isaiah 63:7-14*

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. ⁹In all their affliction he

was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, ¹² who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³ who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴ Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Pastor: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, 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." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and

lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

[10:45] CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

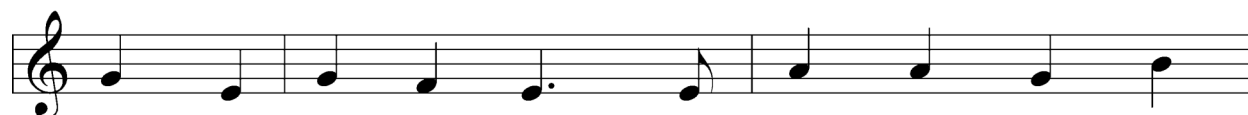
*SERMON HYMN

"From East to West"

Hymn 385



1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the



heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
in her low - ly place, Be - came, in ways be -
bove the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O



Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

SERMON

"Through the Wilderness"

Isaiah 63:7-14

*CONFESSION OF FAITH - 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 worshiped 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.

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

***LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION**

(sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High")

P: May the good Lord be with you.
Lift your hearts to God in praise.

C: May the Lord be with you too.
To the Lord our hearts we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

In the Word of God made flesh—
Great and wondrous mystery—

Now we see with vision fresh
God's abundant majesty.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Therefore with the Church on earth
And the hosts of Heav'n above
Let us praise His name, whose birth
Brings to us eternal love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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.

***AGNUS DEI** *(sung to tune: Abide with Me)*

O Lamb of God, the sin You take away
Of all the world. Have mercy, Lord we pray.
O Lamb of God, Your goodness still increase:
Have mercy on us, Savior; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Hymn 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

"Once in Royal David's City"

Hymn 376



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

Hymn continues on next page →



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

“Let All Together Praise Our God” (vv. 1-2, 4 & 7)

Hymn 389



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
△ 7 Your grace in low - li - ness re - vealed, Lord Je - sus,



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
we a - dore And praise to God the Fa - ther yield And



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.
Spir - it ev - er - more; We praise You ev - er - more.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS AND CONSECRATION FOR THE LORD'S WORK**

***THE BENEDICTION** (Numbers 6:24-26)

Page 166

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


People: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**


"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Hymn 388


Refrain




Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

***DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Preacher	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
Organist	Sandy Hulse
Communion Deacons	Vickie Ryan, Jerry Stevens
Lector	Jan Struck
Usher/Greeter Team	Rodney & Jane Petersen

SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

Preacher	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
Organist	Sandy Hulse
Sound Technician	Mark Bryan
Communion Deacons	Krista Bernthal, Ron Booth, Martha Walker
Elder on Duty	Martha Walker
Lectors	John Woodward, Harriet Mouw
Greeters	Jason & Britta Witcher
Ushers	Janice Graydon, Douglas Hall, Ernie Harben, Bonnie Petersilge, Rob Petersilge, Carl Rod, Larry Walker

CREDITS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
LSB 389 Let All Together Praise Our God Text (sts. 1, 4, 7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000942

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptures taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®) Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Online. <https://esv.literalword.com/>