

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 24, 2025
5:30PM



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor

30 Riverwoods Road

Lincolnshire, IL

847-945-1550 www.holyspirit-elca.org

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit welcomes all to worship, to hear the Good News, to celebrate the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. Without exception, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit welcomes YOU today!

We welcome new visitors, old friends, and our members;
We welcome single, married, widowed and divorced;
We welcome all regardless of age, sex, race, or national origin;
We welcome all people of any sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression;
We welcome all people of any ability or challenge;
We welcome all regardless of socio-economic status;
We welcome all who are happy, sad, rejoicing, grieving, celebrating or recovering;
We welcome all who are seeking justice and peace among all peoples and nations;
We welcome all who are seeking God's love and God's grace.

NEW ON-LINE GIVING AND TEXT TO GIVE

We are excited to announce that we have several new secure online giving options to make it more convenient for members and visitors to donate.

Please scan this code with your phone to donate using our secure online giving page.



Giving is also as easy as sending a text with our new text-to-give feature. Send the amount you want to donate to 844-573-1379. For example, if you want to donate \$100, then text the number 100 to 844-573-1379. You will receive a registration link to enter your contact and payment information. Tap "Process" to complete your donation.

PASTOR:	Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom
OFFICE MANAGER:	Ciara Crews
MUSIC MINISTERS:	Karen M. Jirsa, Bill Vaananen
ORGANIST:	Karen M. Jirsa
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR:	Jennifer Williams
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:	Weekdays 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
CHURCH EMAIL:	lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

5:30PM

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

We welcome you to worship this Christmas Eve. The order for worship and all hymns are printed in this booklet, however, hymn numbers are identified for the red ELW hymnal for those who might wish to sing harmony parts. God welcomes everyone to Holy Communion, to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Please extend your hands to receive the bread. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Those wishing to receive a blessing only should fold their hands.

PRELUDE



“A Cambridge Carol”
“Polish Carol”
“The Three O’s of Christmas”
Christmas Orchestra

arr. Vince Gassi
arr. James Curnow
arr. Elena Lucas

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

please stand

GATHERING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW 283
arr David Willcocks/K. Jirsa

1. 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!

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*



INVOCATION AND OPENING DIALOG

P Beloved in Christ, we are gathered together on this Eve of Christmas to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; to meditate upon the mystery of that Incarnation by which our nature is redeemed, and to receive with joy the message of our salvation.

P In the name of the Father and (+) of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us.

C Oh come let us worship Him.

P 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.**

P Those who lived in deep darkness on them has a light shined.

C **We have seen Christ's glory, the glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.**

P For a child has been born to us, a son given to us.

C **What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P Today Christ is born; today salvation has appeared!

C **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and to be born of a pure virgin. Grant that we, who have been born again and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with You and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.



AN INVITATION

ANTHEM



“Do You Hear What I Hear?”
Adult Choir

Simeone

- Lector 1 “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed...and all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. *Luke 2:1, 3-4 KJV*
- Lector 2 It was a decree ... a census... an order from the emperor. And it was the first invitation to come home for Christmas. Joseph, obeying the law, went to his ancestral home of Bethlehem. It would be the first family holiday gathering.
- Lector 1 Tonight, we invite you “home” ... not to Bethlehem, of course ... but to a holy place nonetheless. We have gathered as a family to worship and celebrate the coming of the King. Old and young, and in-between will sing and share the beautiful story about the Savior’s birth.



HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279

arr Richard Proulx/K. Jirsa

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!



BETHLEHEM

- Lector 1 So Joseph went “home”...to Bethlehem ...with Mary. who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. But there was no warm welcome for them. Only closed doors...“no vacancy” signs. The young couple had come to Bethlehem, but could find no place to stay.
- Lector 2 They found somebody who had room for them, but it was with the animals in a stable. Sheep, cattle and horses and chickens gave up their beds so that Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus would have a place to sleep.

HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

ELW 277

arr John Rutter/K. Jirsa



1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Timothy Linstrom

SPECIAL MUSIC

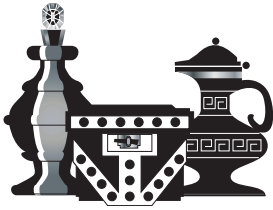
“The Fourth Magi!”

LYFE Choir

You’ve heard of the three great Magi
The three kings who followed the star
They travelled west upon their quest
To view the Christ child from afar.

And when they had seen His glory
The trio would soon understand
They sang His praise, then went separate ways
To spread the news over the land.





The first Magi's name was *Melchior*!
He rode back to Persia, his home
He shared the story of Jesus's glory
Wherever his footsteps would roam.

The second great king was named *Caspar*!
To India, soon he returned
From the sea to the river, this Magi delivered
The tale of the Christ who was born!

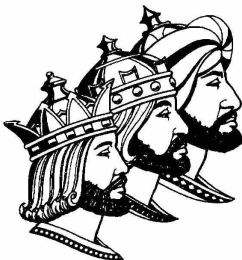
Beyond the land, through deserts of sand
Across the great mountains and seas
Upon their camels, the Magi would travel
And sing of our Christ's pedigree...

The third king was nam-ed *Balthazar*!
An Arabian king from the dunes
He crossed the Red Sea, in Africa he
Shared Christ's tale by the light of the moon.

And now the three kings have departed
The tale of Christ's birth they did write
They struggled and strived, and perhaps gave their lives
So that others may know of His light.



But now I have heard of another!
A fourth Magi after the three!
He arrived one day late, his unfortunate fate
But what was his true destiny?



Now who is this fourth great Magi?
And where is he roaming today?
No sight and no sound, no trace has been found
Of the new king who wandered astray.

We search for Christ at points in our lives
And wait for His light to appear
We follow the kings, and together we sing
Enlightening all who would hear...

And so I will end my searching
For the answer is plain to see
Across space and time, and when stars align
I see the fourth Magi....is me.

Words & music by Bill Vaananen 2025

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

- Lector 1 And Mary brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. *Luke 2:7 KJV*
- Lector 2 The humblest of settings for the Son of God to enter the world: a lowly cattle stall, two young parents and the newborn Christ-child lying in the manger.
- Lector 1 There in Bethlehem, in a lowly stable with sheep and cattle looking on, Mary gave birth to her first born, a Son-the Savior of the world. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.
- Lector 2 The Light that shone forth from that rough manger bed is the Light that had come to earth for all people.



HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

arr John Rutter/K. Jirsa

1. 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

4. 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.

THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

Lector 1

“And there were in the same country shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.” *Luke 2:8-9*

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring good news of great joy that will be for all people! Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.” This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.



Lector 2

Suddenly a great company of angels appeared to the shepherds praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

After the angels left, the shepherds said to one another, “We must go and see this wonderful thing which the Lord has revealed to us” So they left their flocks of sheep and they hurried to Bethlehem. There they found Mary, Joseph and the Baby lying in the manger.

HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW 289

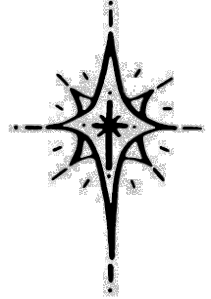
arr Michael Burkhardt



1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo

THE WISEMEN

Lector 1 “... and lo, the star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding joy.”
Matthew 2:9b-10



Lector 2 A mother, a father, and shepherds brought to the manger by angels of God. And at that moment, other visitors were on their way. They were led by a star.

We call them Magi, Astrologers and sometimes Kings. But I wonder if “Wise Men” isn’t after all the best name for them. They were wise men, very wise men to be the first to bring their gifts to the new born King of kings.

Lector 1 When the wise men saw the star, they were overjoyed... so they set out to follow the star. It lead them on a journey eastward, finally stopping over the place where the Christ child was born. When they saw the Child with His mother, Mary, they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Three very, very wise men found Him. They found the King of kings. And they set for us a very wise example. Not only did they find Him, they brought Him gifts as a expression of their praise and worship.

HYMN

“The First Noel”

ELW 300

arr David Willcocks/K. Jirsa

1. The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

REFRAIN

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.



2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

WHAT GIFT SHALL WE BRING?

Lector 2

Gold...Frankincense...Myrrh? Surely some can bring rich gifts like those. But others must bring the willing hands and gentle heart of Joseph. Or the happy soul like Mary's, that rejoices and magnifies God. We can all be like the shepherds, of course. We can rise up and see this thing that has come to pass that the Lord has made known to us. We have done that tonight. And we can, like them, tell the good news that the baby in Bethlehem is God! Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Pastor Timothy Linstrom



HYMN OF THE DAY

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”

ELW 290

arr John Rutter/K. Jirsa

REFRAIN

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

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OF THE CHRISTMAS PEACE

- P** The peace of the Christ Child be with you always.
- C** And also with you.



All the people greet one another through the sharing of the peace.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11, adapted

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"
Adult Choir

Joel Raney



OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Lord of Christmas,
C we are mindful of the supreme gift that you gave us in a manger at Bethlehem. Humbly we offer our gifts of service and possessions in joyful thanksgiving for the love you have shown us. Accept these gifts for the sake of your Son who was born to us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.



- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; Through Him Your majesty is praised by all the holy angels and celebrated with one accord by the heavens and all the powers therein. The cherubim and seraphim sing Your praise, and with them we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
- P** You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

P All who believe in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, are welcome at the table of the Lord. Let us pray together as our Lord taught us:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The communion distribution will be at two stations. Please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seats down the side aisles. Extend your hand to receive the bread, then take a cup of wine from the tray. The darker liquid is grape juice, the lighter liquid is wine. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Those desiring to receive a blessing should fold their hand. Discard your empty cup in the baskets in the front pews.

SPECIAL MUSIC



"O Holy Night"
soloist: Jonathan Gideon

Adams

"Mary Did You Know"
Amy Dohler, flute

Joel Raney

Please stand after all have been communed.

COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of the babe in the manger strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
- C** Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Great and gracious God.
- C** We thank you that in this Holy Meal, the true Light has come to dwell in us. As we return to the world you love, may we take to all people the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



THE LIGHT OF CHRIST FILLS OUR HEARTS

DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT

During the singing of the following carols, light is passed down the aisles to the whole congregation. Please share the light with the next person in your pew by allowing them to dip their candle into your light. DO NOT tip a lighted candle. Tip the UNLIT candle to receive the flame. Please hold the candle upright to avoid dripping wax.

HYMN

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

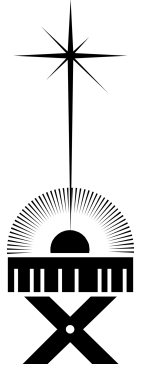
ELW 274

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth.
4. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night.
All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God in highest heav'n; peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen.”

LESSON OF LIGHT

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



- P** 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.**
- P** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- C** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
- P** For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.
- C** **In Him was life, and the life was the light of man!**
- P** Tidings of comfort and joy are heard 'round the world tonight as we echo the song of the angels and are equipped, like the shepherds, to share the good news of a Savior, born to us in Bethlehem's manger. The flames that flicker tonight are a reminder of the fact that, because of Christ, darkness does not overcome the light. Behold your God! Here he is, lying in a manger!



*“Night of Silence” is meant to be sung with the hymn Silent Night.
The congregation begins singing Silent Night after the second choir verse.*

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Interlude

3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth



CLOSING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Almighty God, you have 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 was to the brightness of His glory; through Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reign with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.
- C** Amen

BENEDICTION

P May the Good News that is Jesus, the Messiah, bring you great joy each day. The Almighty and Incarnate God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.

C Amen

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

ELW 270

arr David Willcocks/K. Jirsa

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*



DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the Good News of Christmas.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

Michael Burkhardt



POINSETTIAS



*The poinsettias placed around the altar have been given to
the glory of God by the following people.*

Jerry Mason, in memory of Marilyn Mason.

Pam & Joe Labellarte, in honor of Olive Renee, born November 19.

Carol & Gordon Duprey, in honor of our family.

Kari Davenport in memory of Amy Morrissey.

The Wittichs, in memory of Kent, and Linda Wittich.

Kevin Ruff, in honor of mom, Dee Nancy & Yolanda

Rafal & Karen Ciechowski

Jeanne and Barry Nelson, in memory of our parents: John & Louise Gembar, Leroy & Sharon
Nelson, and brother Tom Gembar.

Jackie & Larry in honor of our grandsons.

Terri and Mike Pedersen in gratitude for our grandchildren.

Amy and Daaron Dohler.

Erin and Ryan Hathaway.

Amy and Nate Lambrecht.

Sandy and Leo Ditewig in gratitude for family.

Jill and Bill Shambrook in memory of our parents and grand daughter Lily.

Jan and Scott Schwanke in memory of our parents.

Mary Lou Gilliam in honor of family.


Pastor Tim and Maria Linstrom in memory of our parents.

The Eastmond family in memory of our parents Linda Eastmond and Nick Pagotelis.

The Lee Curtis family in memory of Gary Curtis.

Jim and Mary Garbrecht in memory of Don Bever.



The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His* 
presence