FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025



ELW SETTING 4 LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor
30 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL

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



We are glad you are with us today.

We are a family of faith living and growing together in Christ.

This bulletin is filled with information about the life of the church, you are invited to take it home for reference and further reflection during the week. Various updates and additional church information, along with the Pastor Tim's sermons, are posted each week on our website — www.holyspirit-elca.org. Welcome cards/envelopes are located in the pew rack. Please take a moment to fill out the information and return it to the offering plate.

Our sound system includes a T-system hearing loop, which allows worshipers with T-system compatible hearing aids to tune in directly to the worship leaders' microphones for clearer sound. There are two hearing unit headsets available in the narthex for use. Additionally, large print bulletins are available at the sanctuary door.

As we worship and celebrate communion this morning we remind you that this is the Lord's table. Jesus is the host. We are his guests. God welcomes everyone to come and eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Come and eat and live! Please extend your hand to receive the bread, then take a cup from the tray. Please indicate if you prefer to receive a gluten-free wafer. Those not receiving communion are welcome to receive a blessing.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Holy Spirit, please see Pastor Tim. Membership comes through baptism or affirmation of faith.

Please let us know if we can be of service to you in any way!

Welcome visitors to LCHS! Please scan this QR code to share your info with us.



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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

All page and hymn numbers refer to the "red" ELW hymnal.

PRELUDE "Medley of Christmas Carols" Chris Rice and Joel Raney

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,Wonderful Counselor,Mighty Savior,Prince of Peace.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

- P Reconciling God,
- C 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.

- P 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!
- C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Angels From the Realms of Glory" ELW 275



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- \mathbf{C} Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel

but his presence that saved them;

in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The word of the Lord.

 \mathbf{C} Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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, ¹² saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

¹³ And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

- C Glory to you, O Lord.
- P 13 Now after [the magi] 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." 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 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."

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "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."

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "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." ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² 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. ²³ 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."

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

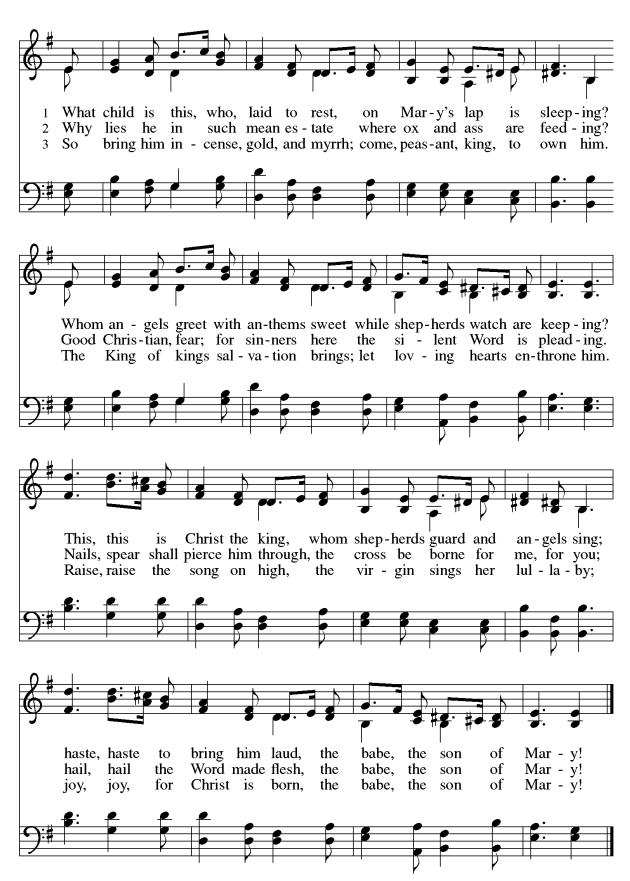
SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY

"What Child Is This?"

ELW 296



APOSTLES' CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.
- A God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. We pray for those serving in the military and their families, especially **Amelia Eastman**, **Thomas Menter** (grandson of Louise), **Dylan Utterback** (son of Julie & Joel), **Jim Detjen** (brother of Mary), **Dylan Glenner**, **Hannah Best** (son and daughter of Anne-Marie Glenner). Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

A God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We especially pray for Carol Bertrand, Ruth Berman, Ethan Cloonan, Amy Dohler, Gordy Duprey, Elizabeth Falato, Marian McBride, Cathy Nathan, Darlene Neumann, Sandy Kalas, Tom Weglarz, Allison Wittich, Valerie Farran (friend of the Wittichs), Mick Garrison (family friend of the Fencls), Jacob Gombar (uncle of Jeanne Nelson), Jean Goodale (friend of Joan Roehl), Laura Hansel (sister of Mary Detjen), Tobey Lannert (sister-in-law of Carol Duprey), Vic Larson (former member), Cierra Mason (granddaughter of Jerry Mason), the Chase Petersen family (friends of Amy Dohler), Kari, Sydney, and Luke Stocks (daughter inlaw and grandchildren of Dorothy and Ron Stocks), Michael Ungari, Lenita Spears, (relative & friend of the Labellarte family), Coco & Lukas (grandchildren of JoAnne Schwarcz), Jim Wahlund (brother inlaw of Chris Miller), **Dana Zingrone** (friend of Jeanne Nelson). God of grace, Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A 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.
- C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always
- C and also with you.

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

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Go Tell It on the Mountain" John Carter

Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

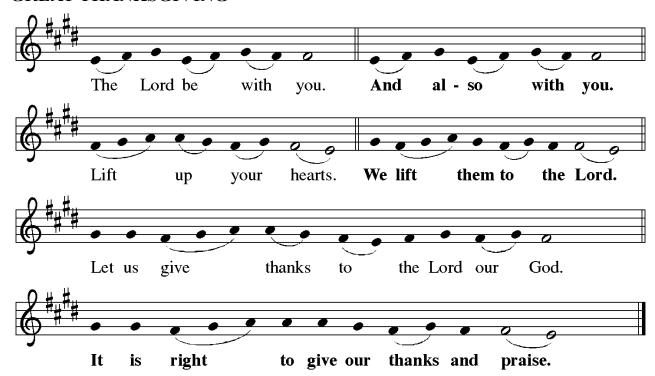
A God of glory,

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.

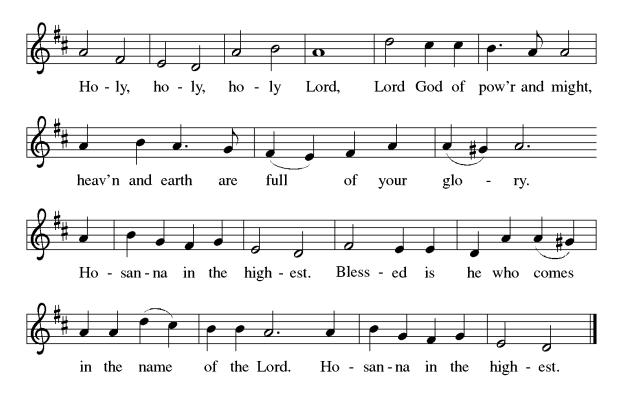
C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world. 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. Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast. By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

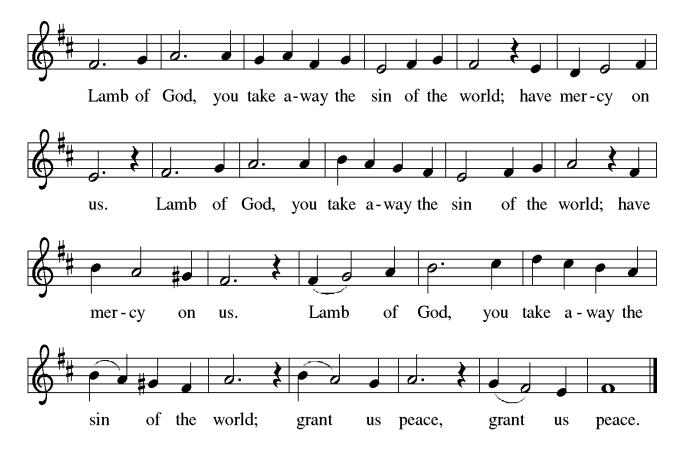
Please be seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

- P God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!
- C Amen.



COMMUNION CANTICLE



Stand after all have been communed

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A 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.
- C Amen.

BENEDICTION

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Wilbur Held

Sanctuary flowers were donated by Mary Garbrecht in honor of Logan's 18th birthday

<u>HELP TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS</u>— After worship on Sunday, January 11th, we will be taking down all the Christmas decorations and storing them until next year. We can use all the help we can get to make this process go quick and easy. So don't forget to stick around this Sunday and help us out! Thank you!

TRIVIA NIGHT — Saturday, January 11 at 7 PM

Join us for a fun night of "brainbashing" as Jeremy Cahnmann will again host a fun Trivia Night here at LCHS on Saturday, January 10th! Brain Bash Trivia is a live interactive trivia game where the questions are fun for all ages about stuff you know and stuff you didn't realize you knew and maybe a few things you'll learn. The questions are fun and the host, Jeremy Cahnmann, has been quizzing people all over the country for over a decade and makes each event unique. Come out and exercise your mind! Cost is \$15/ person. Refreshments will be available for purchase. A link to sign up online can be found on the church website at holyspirit-elca.org/#trivia or by scanning the QR code above. If you prefer, email Jeanne Nelson at inelson 814@comcast.net and let her know how many will be attending.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING — January 18

The annual meeting of Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit will be held following the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, January 18, 2026. Join us as we celebrate the past year and approve new council members and budget. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect council members, review ministry priorities, and approve the operating budget for 2025. All baptized and confirmed members of the congregation are voting members. It is important for all members to attend this meeting so we can have your input and to ensure we have a quorum.

<u>STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT</u> — Do you still need to make your 2026 stewardship commitment? A link to submit your commitment online can be found on the church website at <u>www.holyspirit-elca.org/stewardship</u>. Stewardship forms are also available in the church gathering space.

<u>GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORMS</u>— for anyone who needs to update their giving amount based on their new 2026 pledge this can be done online by logging into your Vanco Simply Giving account. If you are unable to do this or prefer we update it for you, authorization forms are available in the church office.

<u>IMPORTANT TAX BENEFIT</u> — Have you reached that golden IRS age of 70 ½? If so, then you can donate directly to Holy Spirit from your taxable IRA with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

- Currently the maximum annual QCD amount any individual can make in total is \$108,000 (index adjusted annually).
- This direct contribution satisfies any RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) you may be subject to.
- This distribution is not included in your Adjusted Gross Income for the year and thus will not be taxable income.
- This amount will not count against your IRMAA (income related monthly adjustment amount for Medicare).

Just direct your IRA custodian to distribute via direct check to Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. You may already have a checkbook for your taxable IRA account for making such charitable contributions written directly to the charity. Remittance information should include the donor name. Questions can be directed to Jackie Murphy at Jmurph2803@gmail.com.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY — Join us on Thursday mornings from 10:15 am to 11:30 am for a time of Biblical reflection and spirited conversation. During the course of the year we study the Bible, contemporary theologians, current events, what it means to be the church, and Lutheran specific topics. Your thoughts and opinions are valued as we learn from the experts and from each other. Make this wonderful study a part of your new year! We always close our time together in prayer.

QUILTERS — The Quilting Ministry meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

<u>PRAYER GROUP</u> — Our prayer group meets at 9:30a.m. on Thursday mornings in room 3. If you'd like to pray with us, please come! We'd love for you to join us.

ON-LINE GIVING AND TEXT TO GIVE — Our secure online giving option makes it more convenient for members and visitors to donate. Giving is also as easy as sending a text with our text-to-give feature. Text the amount you want to donate to 844-573-1379. A registration link will be texted back for you to enter your information. Tap "Process" to complete your donation. Please scan this code with your phone to donate using our secure online giving page.

<u>LIVE STREAM</u> — Our services are live-streamed and archived on our Holy Spirit YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/
@churchinthewoods-holyspirit or scan the QR code. Please reach out to Daaron Dohler or Ryan Hathaway if you have any questions.





HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

Sunday December 28 Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday December 31 Church Office Closed New Years Eve

Thursday January 1 New Years Day Church Office Closed

Sunday January 4 Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom

Office Manager: Ciara Crews **Music Ministers:** Karen M. Jirsa, Bill Vaananen,

Nancy Fencl

Karen M. Jirsa **Organist:** Jennifer Williams **Children's Ministry Director:**

Assistant Minister Mary Lou Gilliam Usher

Al Edwards

Greeter Jerry Mason, Tom & Eileen Weglarz Communion Jeanne Nelson, Jackie Murphy

Scott Schwanke Record

Church office hours: Weekdays. 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Church email: lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com

Church Phone number: 847-945-1550