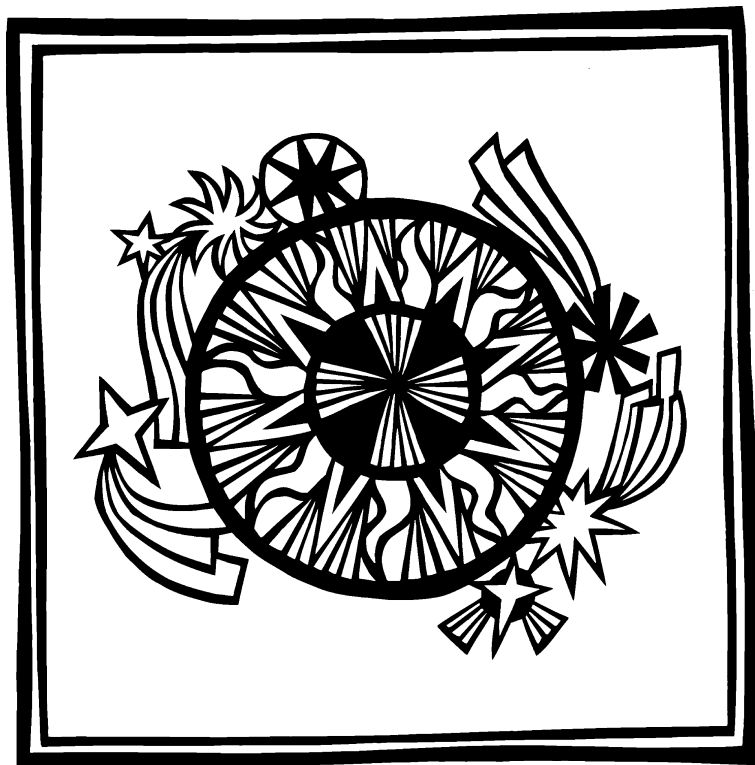


SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026



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

Welcome to **WORSHIP**

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.**



THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

PRELUDE “Angels From the Realms of Glory” Michael Burkhardt

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.**

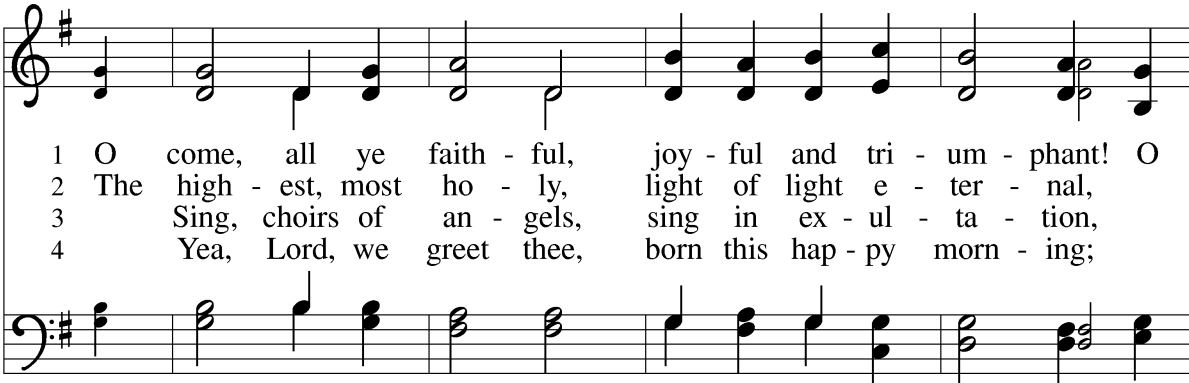
P God's grace upon grace flows over you.
 Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
 Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"O Come All Ye Faithful"


ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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.**

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

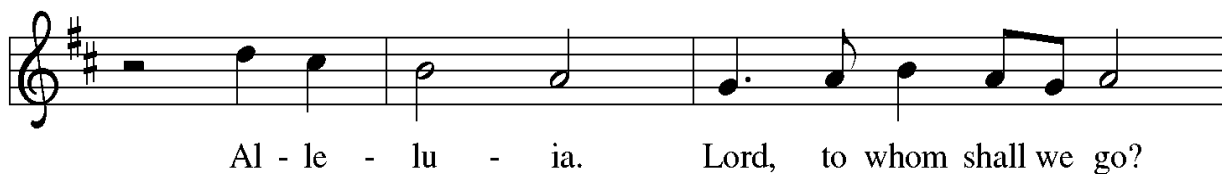
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL VERSE



GOSPEL

John 1:[1-9] 10-18

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

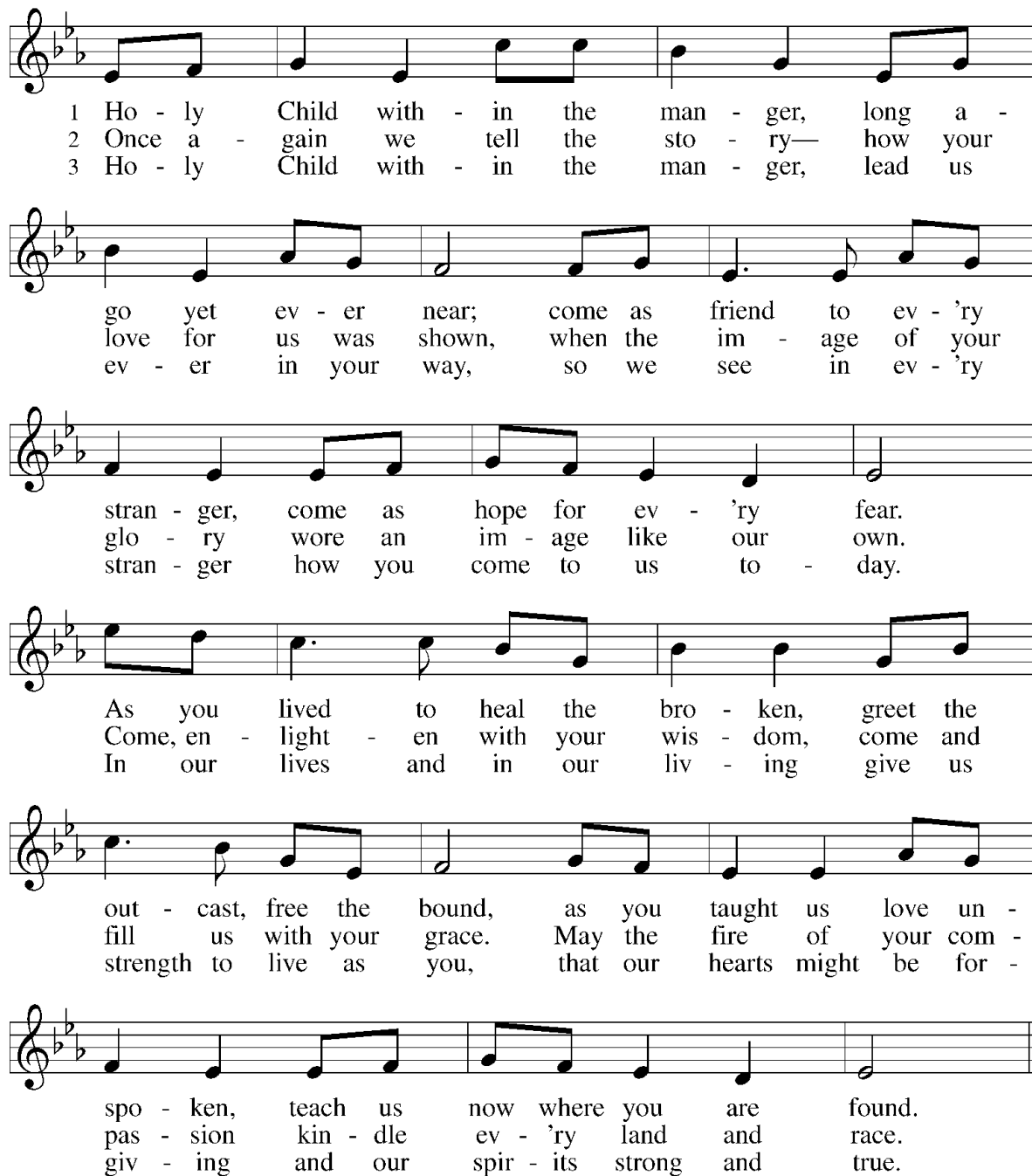
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY “Holy Child Within the Manger” ELW 638



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
 love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
 ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
 glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
 stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
 fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
 strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
 pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
 giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Please Stand

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 O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. 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 You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. 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 Fencels), **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 in-law 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 in-law of Chris Miller), **Dana Zingrone** (friend of Jeanne Nelson). God of grace, Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. 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

“Still, Still, Still”

Lloyd Larson

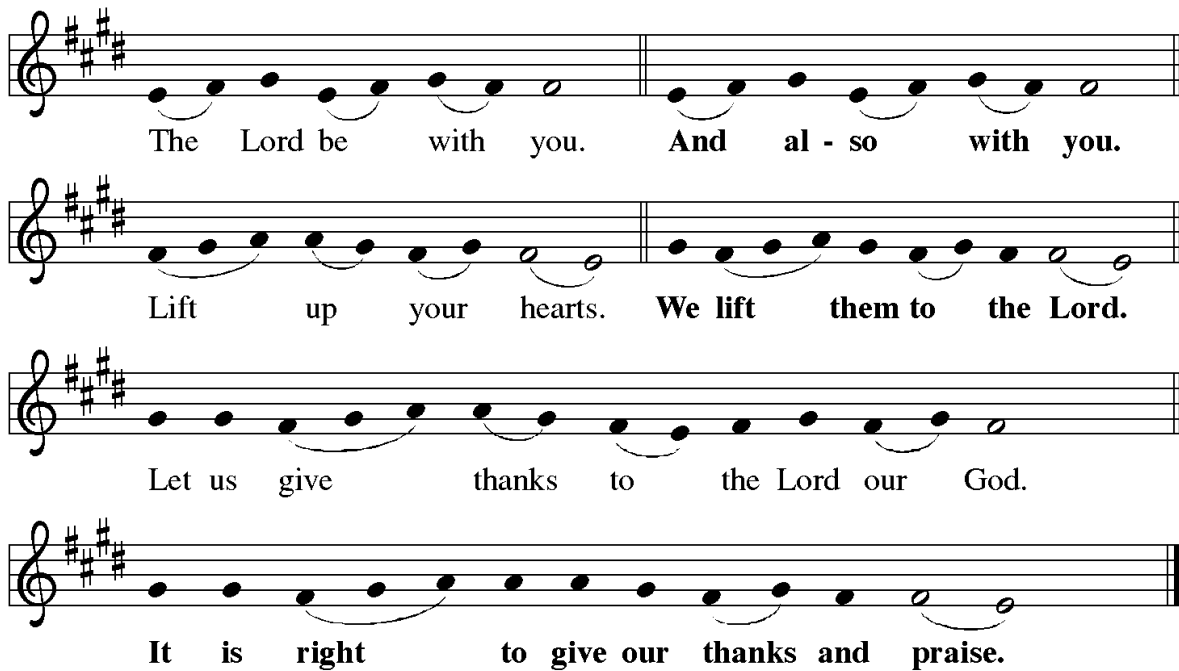
Please stand as the offering is brought forward.

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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;
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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

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.

SENDING HYMN

“Love Has Come”

ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” Wilbur Held

Sanctuary flowers were donated by the Stocks in honor of their 64th anniversary.

HELP TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS— After worship 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 jnelson814@comcast.net and let her know how many will be attending.



ANNUAL CONGREGATION 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.

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.

PRAYER GROUP — 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.



LIVE STREAM — 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 January 4	9:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
Tuesday January 6	4:30 p.m.	Choir
Thursday January 8	9:30 a.m.	Prayer Group
Sunday January 11	9:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion

Pastor:	Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom
Office Manager:	Ciara Crews
Music Ministers:	Karen M. Jirsa, Bill Vaananen, Nancy Fencel
Organist:	Karen M. Jirsa
Children's Ministry Director:	Jennifer Williams

Assistant Minister	Nila Bilstad
Usher	
Greeter	Jerry Mason, Jackie Murphy, Larry Brady
Communion	Jackie Murphy
Record	

Church office hours:	Weekdays. 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.
Church email:	lutheranholyspirit@gmail.com
Church Phone number:	847-945-1550