



# Southeastern Iowa Synod

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Service of the Word

*The First Sunday of Christmas | Sunday, December 29, 2024*

### Gathering

#### **Prelude**

Go Tell It On The Mountain  
Joy To The World

#### **Land Acknowledgment**

We acknowledge and honor the Iowa, Peoria, Kiikaapoi, Myaamia, Sauk and Meskwaki, and Oceti Sakowin peoples upon whose ancestral homelands our Synod gathers, as well as all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

#### **Christmas Proclamation**

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in their own image; long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his

mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
God made flesh.

### **Gathering Hymn**

ELW 288 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

### **Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and  
yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life  
of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever. **Amen.**

# Word

## First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

A reading from First Samuel.

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod.

<sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord”; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Special Music

Gesu Bambino

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>12</sup> As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

ELW 297 *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.  
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;  
new life, new hope the child will bring.  
Listen to the angels sing:  
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.

## **Gospel**

Luke 2:41-52

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

<sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.

<sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

<sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Bishop Amy Current

## Hymn of the Day

ELW 487 *What Feast of Love*

- 1 What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!
- 3 What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.*

God of grace,  
receive our prayer.

*The prayers conclude with these words.*

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **Special Music**

Oh Holy Night

## Thanksgiving for the Word

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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, and 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.**

## Sending

### Sending Song

ELW 290 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

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.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

## **Blessing and Sending**

The God of Love,  
The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Lavish you with grace,  
Illumine your path, and  
Increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace! Christ is with you!  
**Thanks be to God!**

Special thanks to all who contributed to this service: Brett Wolgast (organ), Marita Wolgast (piano and voice), Megan Fleming (vocalist), Trinity Christy, Val Harlynn, Pastor Dan Kuckuck, Pastor LeAnn Stubbs, Amy Van Dyke, and Bishop Amy Current.

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