

Worship
First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024
9:00am



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH
651-451-6225
www.goodshepherdigh.com

Welcome to Worship

Whether one's feet are big or small, fresh or worn, running or crawling,
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is:
Together on the Journey, Sharing God's Love

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Isaiah 60*)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

- P. Arise, shine, for your light has come!
The glory of the Holy One has risen upon you!
- C. Our spirits soar at the dawning of the light
that illumines our darkness.
Our hearts rejoice at God's abundant grace.**
- P. Lift up your eyes and look around,
for God has pity on the weak,
and redeems the oppressed from violence.
- C. Come to Bethlehem with the magi,
following the star of God's glory,
and proclaiming the good news of Jesus,
who is the Christ.**
- P. Arise, shine, for your light has come!
The glory of the Holy One has risen upon you!
- C. We shall see with eyes made new.
We shall see and be radiant.**

SONG *"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Children come forward*

**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!**

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

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

SONG *"We Three Kings"*

**We three kings of Orient are: Bearing gifts we traverse afar. Field and fountain,
moor and mountain, following yonder star. O star of wonder, star of night, star with
royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- L. 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.**
- L. Let us pray together,
- C. Holy Light of all the nations, shine upon us and upon all humankind. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may be beacons of hope to all the earth, bringing the peace of Christ's light to everyone we meet. Amen.**

(Those who are able, please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

BIBLE READING John 1:1-14

- P. In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
- C. The Word was with God in the beginning.**
- P. Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
- C. What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.**
- P. The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.
A man named John was sent from God.
He came as a witness to testify concerning the light,
so that through him everyone would believe in the light.
He himself wasn't the light,
but his mission was to testify concerning the light.
- C. The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.**
- P. The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.
- C. The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.**
- P. But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,

**C. born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.**

P. The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.

**C. We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.**

P. The Word of the Lord

C. Thanks be to God

MESSAGE Pastor Leesa Soderlind

SONG *"The First Noel"*

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!**

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*

Then entered in those wisemen three, full rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in one God, who is Creator,
maker of all we see and all we don't see.
Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.
He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our Messiah:
Savior of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,
Breath of God moving among us;
Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our Guide:
Mentor of all creation!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following is said after each prayer petition

L. Lord in your mercy

C. Hear our prayer

OFFERING RECEIVED

(Those who are able, please stand)

OFFERTORY SONG *"What Child is This"*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh: come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

Glorious God, overjoyed in the presence of Jesus' radiant light, the magi knelt, offering him precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

SONG *"Silent Night"*

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.

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!

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.

SONG *"Once in Royal David's City"*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

COMMUNION BLESSING

BLESSING

- L. May the love of Christ that shines in you
shine brightly in the world wherever you go.
And the blessing of God, Radiant Light,
bless you and keep you always.
- C. **Amen.**

SONG

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Glor - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glor - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

- L. Let us go forth rejoicing in the light of God's love.
- C. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE