



*Introduction to the Day: As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!*

**Merry Christmas from Adoration Lutheran Church!**



*God the creator is sovereign and powerful. God says, and it happens. God does not have a*

*singular specified area of competence, but rather he is the creator God of all things.*

*In this power, God has no spatial limitations. Genesis 1-2:4a parallels the start of another biblical narrative of that reads,*

*"In the beginning was the Word," which is the center of worship on Christmas Day. - Roger Nam*

## *Worship with Holy Communion* *A Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Day*

Our worship liturgy uses *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* the cranberry red hymnal in your pew.

### **Prelude**

### **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Call to Worship: Christmas Comes Anew** *Barbara Regent*

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

**Christmas Proclamation (Based on Psalm 98)**

Sing to God something brand new!

**For God has done wonderful things!**

God has not forgotten to love us all!

**Even the ends of the earth have heard!**

Make a joyful noise! Break forth in song!

**With strings and horns, sing praise to the Holy One!**

With the roaring sea and everything in it!

**With all the land and everything in it!**

The floods clap their hands. **The hills sing for joy.**

Thank God! God is coming to set everything right:

**Justice for everyone, everything equitable.**

Sing to God something brand new!

**For God has done wonderful things!**

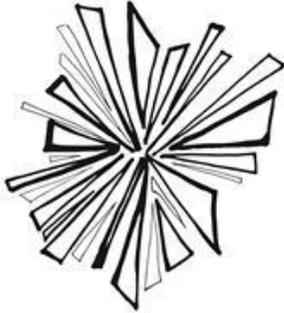
**Gathering Carol: Joy to the World** *ELW #267*

*You may be seated.*

**First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5; 14-18**

A reading from the creation account of Genesis 1:

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.



[Later] <sup>14</sup>God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. Word of Creation, Word of Light. **Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the chaos of sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

In a lowly stable, your son Jesus was born, fully human, fully divine, amid an outpouring of blood and waters;

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

By the baptism of his own death, where blood and water poured down from his side; and by his resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

*Water is poured into the font.*





*Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: "Your God reigns!" Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

**Carol of Praise:**                    *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*ELW #289*

### **Greeting**

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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*You may be seated.*

### ***The Word***

#### **Second Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Word of peace, Word of light. **Thanks be to God.**

*This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.*



*The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.*



### **Third Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4**

A reading from the book of Hebrews:

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. Whom God has appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. <sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels, as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. Word of Glory, Word of light. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!'

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Word of Promise, Word of light. **Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

**Gospel Acclamation: Angels From The Realms of Glory**

**ELW #275      Verses 1 & 2**

*John's gospel guided the church into the mystery of the incarnation: the Jesus whose birth the church celebrates at Christmas is the Word of God, indeed God in the flesh. On Christmas Day the church moves from the beloved narrative of Bethlehem to the central conviction of the Christian faith, that Jesus is God from before the creation of the world. Christmas celebrates God alive in glory and active among humankind. The lectionary appoints Genesis 1, "In the beginning," at Easter, and John 1, "In the beginning," at Christmas.*



*We use the Nicene Creed at the Festival of Christmas in part because of its poetic reflections on Jesus, who is both fully human and fully divine.*

## **Gospel: John 1:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter:

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

<sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Gospel Acclamation: Angels From The Realms of Glory**

**ELW #275      Verses 3 & 4**

*You may be seated.*

### **Christmas Sermon**

**Carol of the Day:      Love Has Come      ELW #292**

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

### **Nicene Creed**

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

***We pray for those in need:***

Ted and Mardy Lazaris; Jay, Ryder, and Riley Lindahl, grieving the death of Kerry;  
 Susan Wilde;  
 Charlotte Linberry, recovering from surgery;  
 Gary Kerlin, recovering from surgery;  
 Dick Voegeli;  
 Joani Bettin;  
 Family and friends grieving the death of Tammy Vazquez (Nowakowski)  
 Sue Clark, grieving the death of mother-in-law Angie Lange;  
 Betty Wing;  
 Mary Anne Markiewicz;  
 Wally Stasiewski;  
 Doug Hamilton (spouse of Lori Hamilton);  
 Jerry (Bruce Crueger's brother);  
 Bob (friend of Bob & Connie Yersin);  
 Karen (Sandy Ringwall's sister);  
 Joy Braun (friend of Sue Clark);  
 Amy & Family (friends of Kathy Wakefield);  
 Jackie (niece of Jan Rinderle);  
 Eric (Crystal's brother)

***We continue to pray for strength and recovery for:***

Tom Nowakowski;  
 Kathy and John Imp;  
 Marylee Dye;  
 Craig Beyler;  
 Ruth & Bob Bauer;  
 Pat Koch;  
 Jeff & Kelly Faltersack for a continued healthy pregnancy

***We keep in our prayers:***

Dawn (friend of Sandy and Bob Young);  
 Pat (Cousin of Donna Babilus);  
 Bruce (friend of Joyce Weinert);  
 Scott and Debbie (family of Margaret Duris);  
 Keith (Sandy Eigner's brother-in-law);  
 Susan (Darlene Witkowiak's daughter);  
 Jeremy (Tom Nowakowski's nephew);  
 Caroline (Jill Lindberg's daughter);  
 Shelby and the family of Taylor Daniels (friends of Crystal Januchowski)



**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**

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy morn to sing of our dear Savior's birth.

May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy moment and grant them a restful mind. God of peace, **receive our prayer.**



Prince of Peace, as God of the conquered and the oppressed, grant us the courage to hope beyond hope; but also to mourn when our hopes are dashed. Help us to believe the unbelievable but also to grieve what we have lost.

God of peace, **receive our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy, especially those we name aloud before you. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light.

God of love, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Christmas Peace**

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may the God of our salvation grant you peace and joy, hope and gladness.

**And also with you.**

*Please share signs of peace with those in your vicinity.*

*You may remain standing in body or spirit.*

*Today we give our tithes and offerings by bringing them forth as we come to receive Communion.*

### ***Meal***

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **Preparation Prayer**

Let us pray. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.**

**Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**



### **Thanksgiving**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks. **We give God our thanks and praise.**



Send her to make us holy, too, and to nourish us; send her to embolden our path towards justice and peace; send her to feed us as we work to see your reign on earth.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, God our parent, God the spirit pouring through us, from before time and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Remember us, O Christ, and teach us to pray:

**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**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Children of God: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

*Please be seated.*

### **Communion**

#### **Hymns During Communion**

*What Child is This?*

*ELW #296*

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

#### **Post-Communion Blessing**

#### **Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.**

**As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

### ***Sending***

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*



**Today's Lay Leaders****Lector:** Craig Beyler**Communion Assistants:**Tom & Jeanette  
Nowakowski and Sandy  
Ringwall**Ushers:** Craig & Tanya  
Beyler**Altar Guild:** Deanna Posig**Music & Worship  
Coordinator:**  
Barb Regent

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***Altar flowers provided by  
Sharon Anderson***

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\*Psalm 98 litany by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, Worldmaking Psalms.

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\*Eucharistic Prayer adapted from Julia Macy Stroud, The Fifth Wound of Christ, 2014.

**Responsive Prayer**

Glory to God in the highest,

**And peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

**You rule the earth with truth and justice. Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**Blessed are you, Son of Mary. **You share our humanity.**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, **and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

**You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.**

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament

**that we may bear your light to all the world.****Blessing**

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**Amen****Sending Carol: *Go Tell It On the Mountain* ELW #290****Dismissal**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**Thanks be to God.****Postlude*****Adoration Lutheran Church****A Congregation of the**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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Barbara Regent, Worship Coordinator

Crystal A. Januchowski, Office Manager

**Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

\* If you have a need that falls outside of these days/hours, please send an email or call the main number. \*



***Merry Christmas from Adoration Lutheran Church!***

We are glad you have joined us for this special season in our faith lives, and in our world. How beautiful it is that God chooses to meet us in the flesh of our lived reality. May the grace and hope of Christ's birth sustain you throughout the year, as we remember Luke the storyteller's promise: Salvation **now** has come to earth.

**If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome!**

If you're back to celebrate Christmas with family and friends, welcome back.

We're glad to see you.

**If you'd like to learn more about Adoration**, please sign the guest register by the entrance doors and introduce yourself to our Pastor, Matt Schlake-Kruse!

**All are welcome at Christ's table, and at Adoration!**

Jesus himself welcomes all to the Lord's Supper. Here at Adoration, we practice "Open Communion," which means we welcome anyone to receive bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, the grace-filled gift of God. Jesus loves everyone and welcomes everyone to his table of grace and peace. Children are welcome to come forward, either to receive a blessing or to receive Holy Communion.

Adoration is a Reconciling in Christ congregation, open and affirming to people of "*all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions*" or "*LGBTQIA+.*" We strive that this can be a safe church space, especially for those who have been harmed by religion.

