

# December 25, 2022 Christmas Day

*\*You are invited to read responses found in **bold**  
\*An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit*

*Welcome to First Lutheran Church!*



## we GATHER here

**Prelude** — “The Song of the Birds”

Setting by Norberto Guinaldo

**\*Processional Hymn** — no. 270

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**\*Words of Welcome**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our  
Savior, let us confess our sin.

Gracious God,  
God of kings and shepherds,  
God of teenage mothers and step-parents,  
God of angel choruses and starlight—  
We confess to waiting.  
We have waited to extend grace.  
We have waited to say, “I love you.”  
We have waited to apologize.  
We have waited to be just,  
**choosing comfort and convenience over the needs  
of our neighbors.**  
We have waited—

**waited for someone else to make a  
move,  
waited for a sign,  
waited until it was our issue.  
You ask us to be the body of Christ, but  
in many ways, we have waited.  
Forgive us.  
Change us.  
Remind us of your love for this world,  
which can't wait.  
In your name we pray, Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
We are children of God and heirs of God's  
promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
In ☩ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

**\*Canticle of Praise** — hymn no. 287

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

## \*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Holy God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Christmas Candle Lighting Liturgy: What Can't Wait?

Voice A: This Advent, we have waited.

Voice B: We have waited for family to arrive.

Voice A: We have waited, singing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Voice B: We have waited for the casseroles to bake.

Voice A: We have waited for snow to fall.

Voice B: We have waited in department store lines.

Voice A: We have waited by fireplaces and around dinner tables.

Voice B: We have waited to raise our candles.

Voice A: We have waited to sing "Silent Night."

Voice B: We have waited for the magic of this day.

Voice A: And now the wait is over. It is Christmas, which means God is here and you are loved.

Voice B: May that truth change you. May it inspire you, challenge you, and burn in you like the light from these candles.

Voice A: For today we light the candles of hope, peace, love, and joy to remind us of our journey to this space. And to those lights we add the Christ candle, for the wait is over.

Voice B: Love is here. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*All five candles are lit while stanza 1 of "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (hymn no. 290) is sung:*

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!  
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain.**

## we LISTEN and RESPOND

### A Reading from the book of Isaiah — Isaiah 52:7-10

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."  
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.

Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
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.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews — Hebrews 1:1-4**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 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, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Light shines in the darkness, **and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

**\*Gospel Procession — no. 283, Stanza 1**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**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:**

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

**\*Gospel — John 1:1-14**

The Gospel of John, the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

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

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 Recession — no. 283, Stanza 3**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**

\*Affirmation of Faith — The 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 power of 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

\*Prayers of Intercession

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Loving God, you come among us in Christ Jesus. Grant to your whole church the humility to recognize our sinfulness, and direct us to work toward unity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all the earth, all of creation rejoices in you. Endow us with wisdom to care for all that you have made as we give thanks for the beautiful intricacy of your creative work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O Lord, you love mercy and justice. Grant to the leaders of all nations good judgment that leads them to work for justice, peace, and equality for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you promise to be with us always. Make your comforting presence known to new parents, families, those who live alone, those who are sick, those who are hungry, and all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, with the shepherds you call us to not be afraid. Free us from our fears so that we share the great joy of your love with everyone. Bless our ministries to the wider community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you guard the lives of the faithful and you have revealed your love to us through the lives of your saints. Inspired by their witness, embolden us to share your love in word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Offering

*Music at the Offering*

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Setting by Johann Pachelbel

# we SHARE the meal

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*Sanctus — from *Setting Twelve, All Creation Sings*

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



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

## \*Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer

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.

In gratitude to God, we pray the prayer 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.**

**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.**

## \*Invitation to Communion

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

All are welcome here at Christ's Table. God can't wait to meet you here.

## Distribution of Communion

Hymn — no. 298

“The Bells of Christmas”

### Communion Blessing and Prayer

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.

## we DEPART for service

### Announcements

\*Sending Hymn — no. 275

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

### \*Blessing & Dismissal

What can't wait? **Hope for a better day.**  
What can't wait? **Peace and repentance, among and within us.**  
What can't wait? **Joy and delight! Our cup runs over.**  
What can't wait? **Love for self, love for neighbor, love for Creator, and love for creation.**  
God is waiting, and God is ready. **Starting here and now—let us worship Holy God. Amen.**  
Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. **Thanks be to God!**

\*Postlude — “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Setting by Johann Pachelbel

### Acknowledgements

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### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Music Leader: David Fienen  
Audio/Video: Rachael Ribar

Reader: David Marlow

Communion Preparers: Patricia & Patrick Duenwald  
Bread Bakers: Michelle Doose, Shirb Sylvester (GF)

*Merry Christmas from FLC!*

## Announcements

- Thank You to all of our substitute musicians for your gift of music while Emily has been away. **We thank: Sophie Martinez, Sharon Malm, Steve Kidder and David Fienen!** You are a gift to us all!
- **The church office will be closed from Dec. 26 - Jan. 1.** Karen will be available in the mornings to receive any end of the year offerings you may want to drop off. **Thank You** for your support and faithful giving!
- **Christmas Lessons & Carols** will be led by Pastor Heather Culuris on Jan. 1st. Come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!
- **Monday Bible study** is returning beginning on January 9, 2023! Morning prayer will be held in the chapel at 9:30am, followed by a discussion of Bishop Herbert Chilstrom's book *Hebrews: A New and Better Way* in the conference room. All are welcome!

## Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Ellis Jones, Allen Storkson, and Gene Roemhildt.
- We pray for the family of Galen Ribar who passed away on November 30.
- We pray for Stu Nesburg who is mourning the recent loss of his brother John.
- We pray for all those mourning the recent loss of loved ones.
- We pray for peace around the world; for all affected by natural disasters; and, for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.