

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025

Weekly Update

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, December 28, 2025

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

For additions or updates, email admin@holycrossherndon.org
Names are removed after one month unless advised otherwise.

OUR CONGREGATION

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler
Joy Caveney | Joel Flegal | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson
Jared Lem | Reed Morgan | Mike Muller | Craig Reichow
Jeremy Shoop | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Randy and Shirley Beamer (friends of Pam Darby)
Debbie Bowman (niece of Betty Skelton)
Joy Brown (friend of Kate Flegal)
Symphony Calvillo & her two boys (friend of Kate Flegal)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sue Mason (sister of Pam Darby)
Sharon Massen (friend of Craig Reichow)
Lisa Nolf (friend of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark and Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Steven Swancutt (brother of Lynn Russo)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)
Laizu Zaman (friend of Jared Lem)

THOSE IN MOURNING

The McElveen and Flegal families, upon the passing of
Patrick's mother, Gayle McElveen
Family & friends of Glorene Mjones (founding member of Holy Cross)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Director of Music and Liturgy:
Sound Technician:
Video Technician:

Jeremy Shoop
Bob Thompson
Sylvia Moran

Serving December 28th: First Sunday of Christmas

Supply Pastor:	Rev. Katy Moran
Assisting Minister:	Anne Geiger
Reader:	Jo Roe
Acolyte:	Sarah Moran
Greeter:	Jared Lem

Serving January 4th: Epiphany

Supply Pastor:	Rev. Pam Mitcham
Assisting Minister:	Diana Virgo
Reader:	TBD
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	TBD

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: DEC 28 – JAN 4

SU 28	10:00 am	Worship – First Sunday of Christmas
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH
W 31	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
SA 3	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	9:30 am	Stephen Ministry Meeting
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 th Day Adventist
SU 4	10:00 am	Worship – Epiphany
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH

*The Church office will be closed on Thursday,
January 1 and Friday, January 2.
Happy New Year!*

END-OF-YEAR GIVING & FINANCE REMINDER

Donations to the Church must be made prior to January 1, 2026 in order to be deductible for the 2025 tax year.

LUNCH FOR THE SOUL

We need your help to serve our neighbors in need through this caring ministry! Holy Cross provides lunch on the first Wednesday of every month, and your support in cooking, serving, or cleanup is always welcome. Our next opportunity to serve is on Wednesday, January 7. Please consider joining us! You can sign up at: perfectpotluck.com/YEEI1717 or scan the QR code.



MLK – DAY OF SERVICE MONDAY, JAN 19

As we prepare to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., everyone is invited to participate in an **MLK Day of Service** dedicated to compassion, community, and outreach. We are grateful to once again partner with the **Herndon Woman's Club**, whose commitment to service closely aligns with our own mission.

During the day, we will assemble **Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief**, providing hygiene and comfort items to communities around the world recovering from disasters and hardship. An Amazon link will be created after Christmas, allowing you to easily purchase items for the kits.

Additional activities will include an Inova Blood Drive and the collection of eyeglasses, which will be refurbished and distributed to individuals who lack access to essential vision care.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Your hard work and creativity filled our space with the Christmas spirit.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Thank you to all who have dedicated beautiful Sanctuary flowers each week. They are an incredible reminder of God's faithfulness.

There are still plenty of slots available to dedicate flowers in the coming weeks. Up to two vases can be dedicated each Sunday. Scan the QR code and sign up to celebrate a life event or remember a loved one.



HERNDON WOMAN'S CLUB

Holy Cross is partnering with the Herndon Woman's Club for a Day of Service on MLK Jr's birthday, January 19, 2026.



The HWC is looking for donations of old crayons and old socks without holes as part of the service projects they will be organizing that day. If you have old crayons or those pesky

socks without a partner (no anklets please), please bring them to church any Sunday or contact:

Helen Wolfe (hkswolfe@gmail.com) or

Cheryl Smith (cismith1@verizon.net). Thanks!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion at that part of the service. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025
10:00 AM

This morning we are using Dr. Wilda Gafney's Women's Lectionary (Year W). Dr. Gafney's translation and selections of scripture for the Women's Lectionary centers women and other often-overlooked people in biblical texts. She uses careful scholarship to highlight where the original languages include women, feminine imagery for God, or the experiences of marginalized communities. Her choices bring forward voices that traditional translations sometimes obscure, helping us experience familiar passages in new ways that honor the fullness of God's people.

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.



WE GATHER



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Welcome, Son of Mary

arr. Christopher Uehlein

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of
Peace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Reconciling God,
Assembly: **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.

Pastor:

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!

Assembly:

Amen.



GATHERING HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth,
 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

GREETING

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

Assembly: **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

(Stanzas 1-4)

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!</p> | <p>6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Please sit.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

FIRST READING

Micah 4: 5-10, 13a

Reader: A reading from the prophet Micah.

⁵All the peoples walk,
each one in the name of their god,
yet we will walk in the name of the AGELESS ONE our God
forever and ever.

⁶In that day—(a prophetic) utterance of the COMPASSIONATE
ONE—

I will assemble the lame
and I shall gather those who have been driven away,
and those whom I have harmed.

⁷I will transform the lame into a remnant,
and the outcast into a strong nation;
and the MAJESTIC ONE will reign over them in Mount Zion
from now on and forever.

⁸And you, Migdal Eder (Watchtower of the Flock),
Hill of Daughter Zion, to you it shall come,
the former dominion shall come,
the queenship of Daughter Jerusalem.

⁹Now, why do you scream, shout?
Is there no sovereign in you?
Has your counselor perished,
that you have been seized by writhing-pain like a woman birthing?

¹⁰Writhe and let loose, Daughter Zion,
like a woman in labor;
for now you shall go forth from the city
and dwell in the open country.

You shall go to Babylon;
there you shall be rescued.
There the SAVING GOD will redeem you
from the hands of your enemies.

¹³Rise and thresh, Daughter Zion!
For I will make your horn iron and your hoofs bronze.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 9:1-2, 7-11, 13-14

Reader: As our response to the reading from Micah, we will read Psalm 9 responsively.

¹ I will give thanks to the GOD WHO SAVES with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

² **I will rejoice and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, Most High.**

⁷ GOD WHO IS MAJESTY sits enthroned forever;
she has established her throne for judgment.

⁸ **She judges the world in righteousness;
she judges the peoples with equity.**

⁹ SHE WHO IS FAITHFUL is a stronghold for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.

¹⁰ **They trust you, they who know your name,
for you do not forsake those who seek you, REDEEMING
GOD.**

¹¹ Sing praises to the HOLY ONE enthroned in Zion.
Declare her deeds among the peoples.

¹³ **Be gracious to me, GRACIOUS ONE.
See what I suffer from those who hate me.
You lift me up from the gates of death,**

¹⁴ so that I may recount all your praises,
and in the gates of Daughter Zion,
rejoice in your salvation.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:1-7

Reader: A reading from the Paul's letter to the Galatians.

¹ I say that as long as heirs are minors, they are no better than slaves, though they are the masters of all; ² but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the sovereign. ³ So also for us; while we were minors, we were enslaved by the constitutive elements of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent God's own Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption like children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of God's own Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are

no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Setting 1)



GOSPEL

John 1:1-5

Pastor: The Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The Word was with God in the beginning. ³ Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being that came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the bleakness, and the bleakness did not overtake it.

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

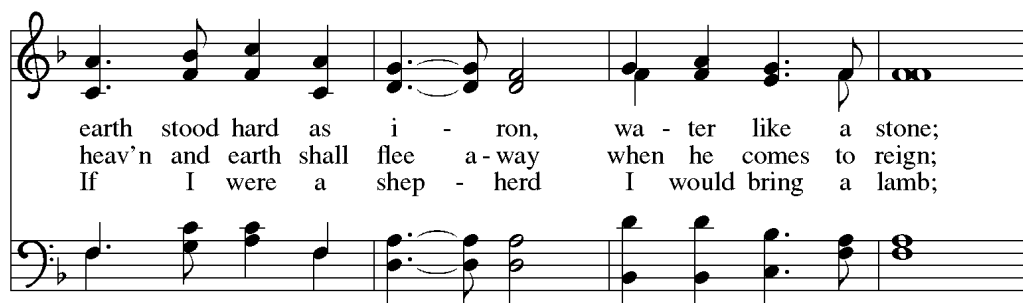
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In the Bleak Midwinter



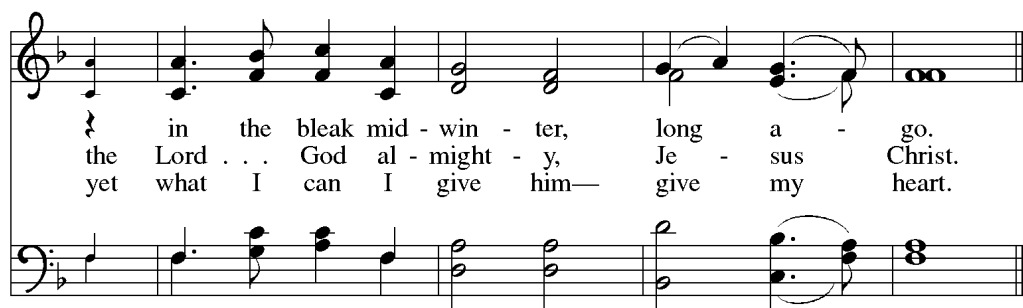
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Theo Renner Page

Parents – Daniel Renner and Sabina Page

Sponsor – Stefanie Franziska Page

PRESENTATION

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

Pastor: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsor: Who presents this child for baptism?
I present Theo Renner Page for baptism.

Pastor: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Theo Renner Page baptized into Christ?

Parents: *We do.*

Pastor: As you bring Theo to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

To live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Parents: Do you promise to help Theo grow in the Christian faith and life?
We do.

Pastor: Sponsor, do you promise to nurture Theo in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsor: I do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Theo and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

Assembly: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses the parents and sponsors.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Parents/Sponsor: We renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Parents/Sponsor: We renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Parents/Sponsor: We renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

Assembly: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**Assembly: 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.**

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
 Assembly: **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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
 Assembly: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 Assembly: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Assisting Minister pours water into the font.

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and

reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

BAPTISM

Pastor: Theo Renner Page, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Pastor: Sustain Theo Renner Page with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Pastor: Theo Renner Page, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

Assisting Minister: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Assisting Minister: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Assembly: **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

The sharing of THE PEACE is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 Assembly: **And also with you.**

Please sit.

OFFERING

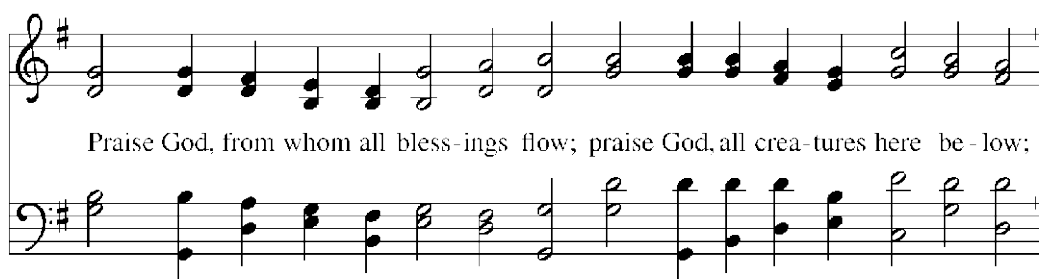
MUSICAL OFFERING

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Christopher Uehlein

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea- tures here be - low;



praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: 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.

Assembly: **Amen.**



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

Assembly: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 1)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the table where we who are broken are made whole. So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks, took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us, call us from the folly of this world, until in wisdom, we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

All this we ask through your son, Jesus Christ.

By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray with confidence the prayer Jesus taught us.

Assembly: **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

Pastor: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

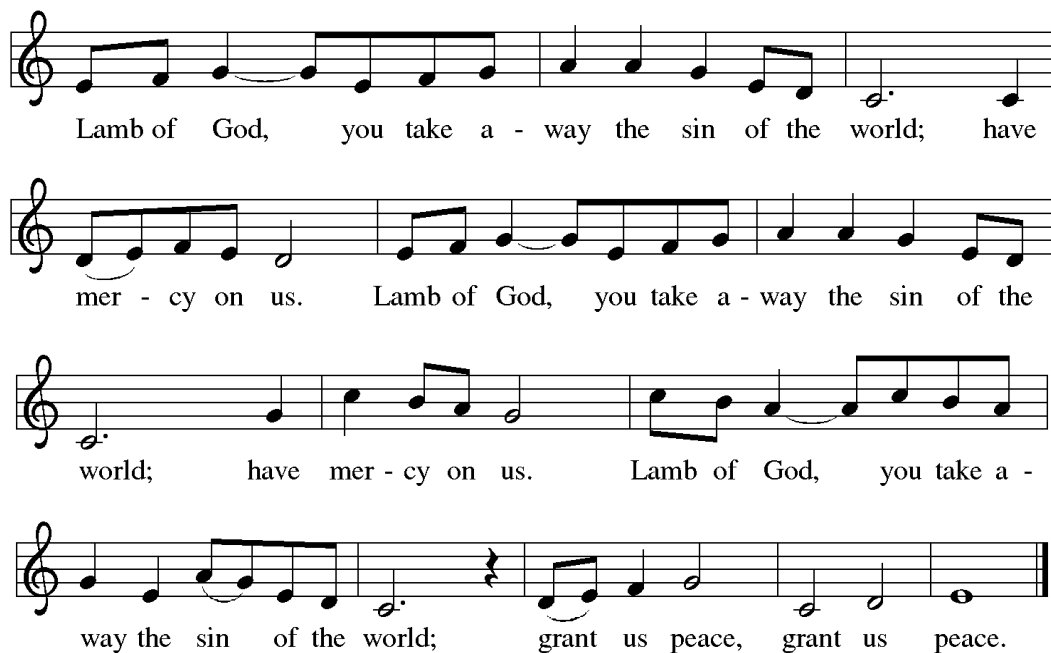
Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. Red wine and white grape juice are available in individual cups. Bread served is Gluten Free. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

AGNUS DEI

(Setting 1)



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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.




This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



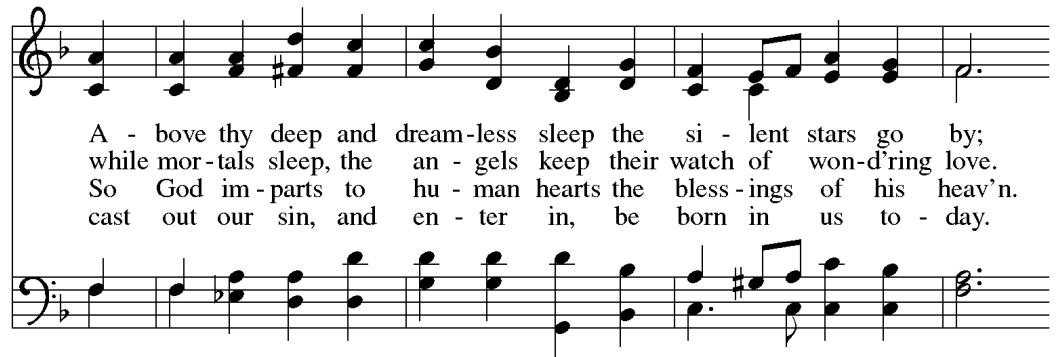
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

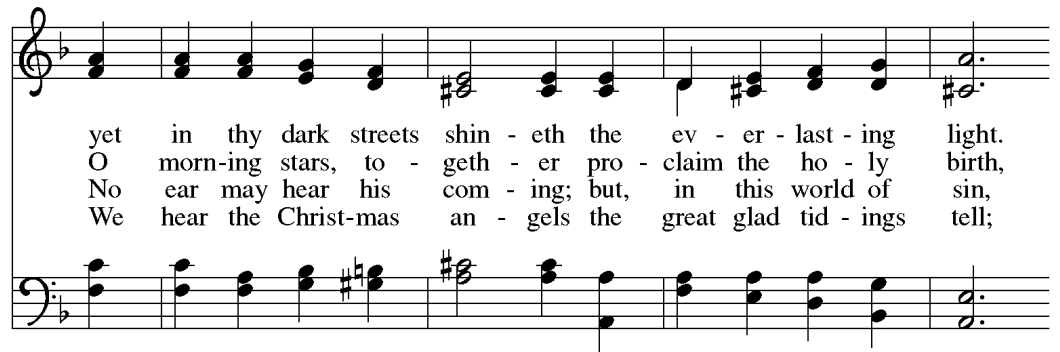
O Little Town of Bethlehem



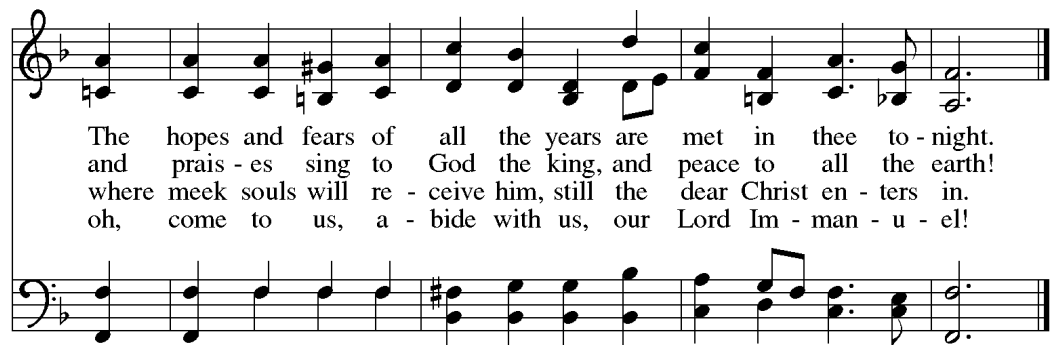
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Assembly: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. 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.
Assembly: Amen.



WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



SENDING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate
One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with
endless grace, peace, and joy.

Assembly: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Glory to God in the Highest!

Assembly: And peace to God's people on earth!

Assisting Minister: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Ship

arr. Christopher Uehlein

As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from applauding during worship and after the postlude.

THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Martyrs

Sunday, December 28, 2025

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus

Thursday, January 1, 2026

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Friday, January 2, 2026

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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