

# Worship Service ~ December 28, 2025 9:00

## First Sunday of Christmas

VISION: Be the body of Christ:

welcoming all, inspired by God, and sent out to live our Faith.

MISSION: Led by the Spirit to share God's grace.

Today's Worship Broadcast is sponsored by  
Pam & Ted Lautzenheiser in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

PRELUDE            *"Holiday Carol Medley"* -Otto Hanley and  
                                 Malcolm Anderson, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

OPENING SONG            ELW #283 *O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL* stz 1, 3, 4

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence for Reflection*

L: Reconciling God,

**C: 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.**

L: 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! **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

**C: 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. Amen.**

PRAYER LAB MINUTE

SPECIAL MUSIC ELW #294 *IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER* stz 1, 2, 3

R: A reading from Psalm 147.

**Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Extol the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

<sup>13</sup> For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.

<sup>14</sup> He grants peace within your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of wheat.

<sup>15</sup> He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.

<sup>16</sup> He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> He hurls down hail like crumbs—  
who can stand before his cold?

<sup>18</sup> He sends out his word and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his ordinances.

Praise the Lord!

R: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #561 *JOYOUS LIGHT OF  
HEAVENLY GLORY* stz 1

R: A Gospel reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of John.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**John 1:1-18**

<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 overtake 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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

MESSAGE Pastor Marlene Elmstrom



#### MUSICAL OFFERING

ELW #279 *O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM* stz 1, 4

ELW #271 *I AM SO GLAD* stz 1, 2

ELW #276 *INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY* stz 1, 2

#### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

L: Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### BLESSING

The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you, The LORD look upon you with favor, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG    ELW #275 *ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY*  
stz 1, 2, 4

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Malcolm Anderson

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