



**Christmas Day Service**  
December 25, 2025  
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church  
and First Lutheran Church





*(Light all three blue candles, one pink candle and one white candle)*

## **Confessions and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**All: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**All: 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.**

P: 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!

**All: Amen.**

Verses 1, 2 and 3 Large print words on page 15

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

## Greeting

P: Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.

All: **Alleluia**

## Prayer of the Day

P: All-powerful and unseen 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.

All: **Amen.**



Verses 1, 2, 3 and 4 - Large print words found on page 16

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876  
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

*The prophet invites the people to give God no rest until God re-establishes Jerusalem. In turn, they will receive names full of promise: The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD, A City Not Forsaken.*

<sup>6</sup> Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; <sup>9</sup> but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

<sup>10</sup> Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. <sup>11</sup> The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”

<sup>12</sup> They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

**Second Reading****Titus 3:4-7**

*God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>4</sup> When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**AM:** Word of God, Word of Life

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

Verses 1, 2 and 3 – Large print words found on page 17



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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**P:** The gospel according to Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter

**All:** **Glory to you O Lord.**

## Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<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 he 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.

P: The gospel of our Lord.  
C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Walter Still

Carol

“The First Noel”

ELW #300

Verses 1, 2 & 4 – Large print words found on page 18



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . . .



cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the

*Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional  
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## Prayers of Intercession

AM: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

**A brief silence.**

The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us, bringing life, love, and joy to a weary world. Gracious God, use our lips and our lives to proclaim the good news of your coming. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: The earth rejoices and the coastlands are glad on the day of your birth. Bring life to barren wastelands, healing where we have caused harm, and bold hearts to respond to creation's call for justice. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: Righteousness and justice are your foundation, O Holy One. Fill world leaders with your zeal for righteousness and your love for any who are marginalized and oppressed (especially). Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: The heavens proclaim your glory and announce that we have been made your own people. Keep watch over all who are spending this holy day alone, alienated, or ill (especially). Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: Light dawns for the righteous and joy visits the upright in heart. Fortify us with your grace and fill us with zeal to proclaim the news of your birth to those who long for love. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: From the nurturing darkness of the womb to the tender night of the tomb, you enfold us in your love. We remember with affection those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace (especially). Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

ELW # 289



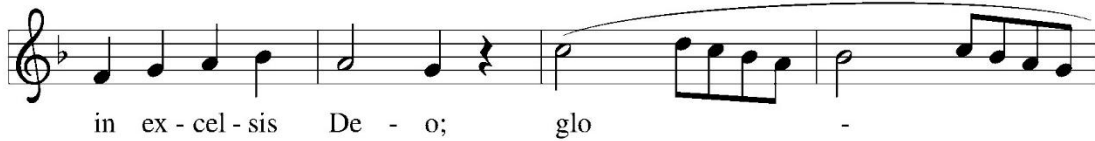
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



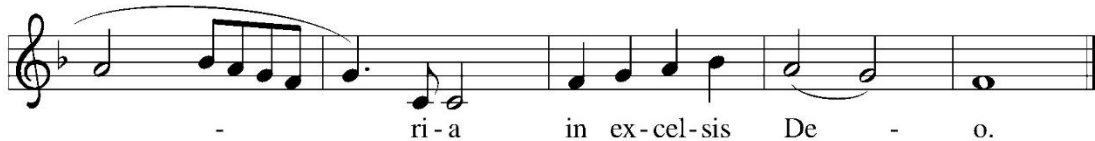
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

**Blessing**

P: The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

All: Amen.

**Postlude**

“Got A Candle in My Window”

Mark Adams-Westin

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## **Leading Worship Today**

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Walter Still and Pastor Chris Olson Bingea

**Music:** Amy and Adams

**Assisting Minister:** Barbara Rossow

**Recording Producer:** Silvester Vicic

### **Just a reminder that the church office will be closed**

December 25-January 4th. If you need to reach staff during that time, please call Mary Kowitz at 651-242-0538 or Pastor Walter Still at 239-910-0194

### **PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:**

Chris Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan Frankenberg, Carol Hansen, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Ron Hansopn, Marcia Imsdahl, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Eugene Karls, Gisela Koegh, Velta Krauze, Marilyn Nelson, David O'Connor, Priscilla Reeve, Marnie Rose, Bev Stickler, Betty Swanson, Ivanka Vicic, Ken Wagner, Dorie Wiehe, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom.

### **AND FOR FIRST LUTHERAN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

Bob Anderson, Janis Behrens, Dwaine Berg, Charlotte Coan, Jack Dunkley, Dan Germain, Don Haslach, Laura Haslach, Sharon and Tom Hochstein, Candice Danielson Johnson, Delores Pulju, along with her two daughters Sandra and Diane, Harold Sellie, Ed Selnes, and Joan Selnes.

**Please join us for worship on December 28 when Mark and Amy will be leading music at Arlington Hills Lutheran church at 9:30 a.m.**

**Please join First Lutheran as they return to their Sanctuary for services on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. 464 Maria Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106.**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today,  
Ox and ass beside him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
Now ye hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
Now ye need not fear the grave, Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## **It Came Upon The Midnight Clear**

**ELW# 282**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
from Heaven’s all gracious King”,  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever over its babel sounds, the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way, with painful steps and slow.  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing,  
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## Love Has Come

ELW# 292

Love has come – a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it,  
Hear how the song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior,  
Love! Love! Glory to God on High.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder,  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother,  
What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers,  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us,  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas,  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## The First Noel

ELW# 300

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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They look-ed 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

## Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW# 282

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

### *Refrain*

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

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

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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864



**Christmas Memorial Garden 2025**  
**In Memory of:**

*Parents and Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles, Siblings and friends* from Amy and Mark Adams-Westin

*Dean Anderson* from his loving family.

*Loved ones* from Tom and Kathy Brackey

*Our Parents, and Gary, Kevin and Linda Brockway* from Tom and Dan Brockway

*Wayne Frankenberg* from the Frankenberg Family

*My husband* from Carol Hansen

*Parents Kenneth and Adeline Hansen* from Wayne K. Hansen

*Our Parents* from Jon and Karen Helgason

*John Hollman, Jackie, Joann and Ray Staples* from Cheryl Hollman

*Our Parents and Siblings* from Paul and Mary Kowitz

*Nancy Mapson* from Diane Mapson

*My Husband Wallace Metling* from JoAnn Metling

***David and Warren Wieken and Chuck Larsen*** from Roxanne Wieken Larsen

***Our parents/grandparents Les and Mickey Nelson*** from Lopez and Christensen families

***Harold and Dolores Westin, Curtis and Ethel Nelson*** from DeAnne & Robert Nelson

***Aunt Cyndi, Uncle Neil, Aunt Rosie and Cousin Jack*** from Dana Nelson

***Ken Rossow*** from Barb Rossow

***Douglas Robertson, Gladys and John Robertson*** from Valerie Robertson-Osmundson

***Our Parents and Siblings*** from Charle & Elaine Rohrbach

***Lorraine & Robert Nyberg and Lorraine Schreiber*** from Shreiber, Nyberg and Hubbell Family

***Jerry Schaber*** from Jerry Schaber Family

***Robert and Phyliss Schmidt; Andrew Persoon*** from Jim Persoon and Barbara Schmidt Persoon

***Our parents Richard and Marjorie Springer*** from David and Mary Springer

***Husband John Stickler, Parent Gladys and Russell Anderson*** from Beverly Stickler

***Loving Memory of our daughter Jenny Wagner*** from Ken and Kate Wagner



## **In Honor of:**

***Children and Grandchildren*** from Tom and Kathy Brackey

***My son and grandson*** from Carol Hansen

***Our Children and Grandchildren*** from Paul and Mary Kowitz

***My son Kenneth and his wife, Kim Wieken and my Grandsons Kevin and Keith,  
and Great Grandchildren*** from Roxanne Larsen.

***Our Children and their families*** from Elaine and Charles Rorhbach

***My Children and Grandchildren*** from Barb Rossow

***Granddaughters Audrey, Gwen, and new baby Evie May*** from Linda Strohkirch



### **Combined Staffing Information**

Pastor Walter Still, Interim Pastor

Chris Olson Bingea, Pastor and Stanley Ayashim, Pastor

Brenda Olson Bingea, Development Director, First Lutheran

John Petraborg/Ellen Hacker, Organists, First Lutheran

Barbara Rossow, Organ/Piano/Choir Director, Arlington Hills Lutheran

Kristin Wolla, Business Administrator and Handbell Director, First Lutheran

Mary Kowitz, Business Administrator, Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

Chris Vos, Finance Administrative Assistant, Arlington Hills Lutheran Church.



## **Christmas Day 2025**

**The refrain of the prophet Isaiah “For unto us a son is given” (9.6) resounds in the Christmas message of**

**Luke “...the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him bands of cloth and laid him in a manger...”(2.6-7b).**

**These faith filled sages heralded the good news of an embracing, forgiving and intimate God who accompanies and blesses all nature, people and relationships.**

**That message is announced and celebrated for this world and for you by Arlington Hills Lutheran Church in this Christmas Day Service.**

**Merry Christmas!**

**Pastor Walter Still.**