

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – 4:00 PM

St. Luke Worship Service

(in person worship)



“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened’. . . and they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.” When Jesus had been born in Judea, wise men from the East came, saw the star, found the Child, and bowed down to worship him, opening their treasures ... – *Luke 2:15-16 and Matthew 2:1-11*

St Luke Lutheran Church

9100 Menaul Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87112 ♦ 505-299-2621 ♦ Email: StLuke@thuntek.net
Website: <http://www.stlukeabq.org/> ♦ Find our Livestream online on **Christmas Eve, 8 PM MST**,
at: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stlukeabq/>

Prelude

In dulci Jubilo

Marcel Dupre

In dulci Jubilo BuxWV 197

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome!

Gathering Song ELW 279

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
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

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion and gifts of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

All powerful and unseen God. You came to us in the Christmas Child, Jesus of Bethlehem. The news of his birth among us and his light have brightened our weary hearts with peace and joy. Call us out of every darkness and empower us to proclaim with loving words and caring deeds the good news of the birth of your Son, Jesus the Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalmody

Psalm 96:1-4, 9, 10, 13

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. (Ps. 96:11)

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be revered than all gods.
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved, he
will judge the peoples with justice."**
- ¹³ You, O God, will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2: 11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.



The Best Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant Ever

Richard Shephard

Our gospel pageant is presented by the St. Luke Kids Spark and Godly Play children and families. Families with young children are welcome to watch the pageant from the reserved seating up front. Please keep the aisle clear for the pageant. Enjoy the journey back to the night of Christ's birth.

Gospel Acclamation ELW 289, verses 1 & 3

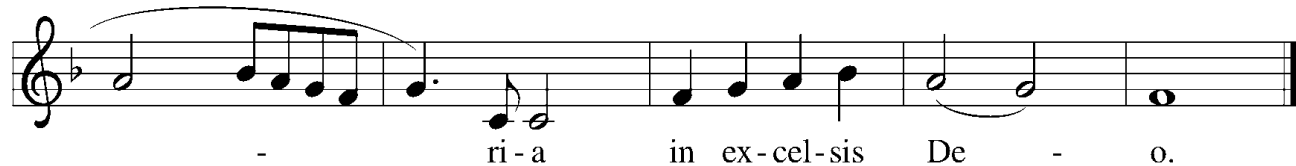
Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
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.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



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

Christmas Story, Part 1

Each Christmastide, the world around, our churches joyfully resound with children singing, robed in white, and dressed as angels in the night proclaiming Christ our Savior's birth to sheep and shepherds here on earth: "For unto you this day is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!" So, we may go, as shepherds then, to meet our Lord in Bethlehem.

Hymn

While By My Sheep, vs 1-2

1. While by my sheep I watched at night,
2. There shall be born, so he did say,
Glad tid - ings brought an an - gel bright:
In Beth - le - hem a Child to - day:
How great my joy! (Great my joy!) Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high. (Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.)

Christmas Story, Part 2

Those shepherds, struck with fear and awe at what they heard and what they saw, inspired by angels in the sky, and barely understanding why, prepared to travel to that place where they might see this Child of grace. So, acting on that holy news, they marched, with lambs and rams and ewes Already wakened from their sleep, those shepherds with their wooly sheep.



Hymn ACS 913 verses 1-4

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is
4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
seized their trou - bled mind: "Glad tid - ings of great
born of Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is
hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.
Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign:
swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715

Music: WINCHESTER OLD, Este's *Psalms*, 1592; arr. George Kirbye, 1560–1634

Christmas Story, Part 3

Beside the manger filled with hay, where Jesus Christ our Savior lay, The shepherds bowed to worship; there, the animals that all did share Their worship gifts with God's own Son - each gift unique, yes, every one The cow and donkey, sheep and dove, whose gifts were given out of love, Stood vigil 'round the manger bed where baby Jesus laid His head.



Hymn

The Friendly Beasts, verses 1-2, 5-6

1. Je - sus our bro - ther kind and good was
2. I said the don - key, shag - gy and brown; I
5. I said the dove from the raf - ter high; I
6. Thus ev' - ry beast by some good spell, In a

hum - bly born in a sta - ble rude; And the
car - ried His moth - er up - hill and down; I
cooed Him to sleep with a lul - a - bye; We
sta - ble dark was there to tell of the

friend - ly beasts a - round him stood,
car - ried His moth - er to Beth - le - hem town.
cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I;
gift that he gave Im - man - u - el, the

Je - sus our bro - ther kind and good.
I said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.
I said the dove from the raf - ter high.
gift that he gave Im - man - u - el.

Christmas Story, Part 4

Though later, wise men, traveling far to find this King beneath the star, brought gold and myrrh and frankincense (worth sums of money quite immense) To honor Jesus; these were not of greater value than gifts brought By humble shepherds and their sheep, whom angels raised from midnight sleep To tell the news that Christmas morn, "It is for YOU that Christ is born!"





1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;

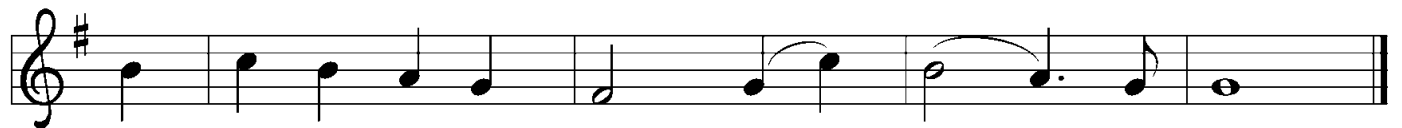


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

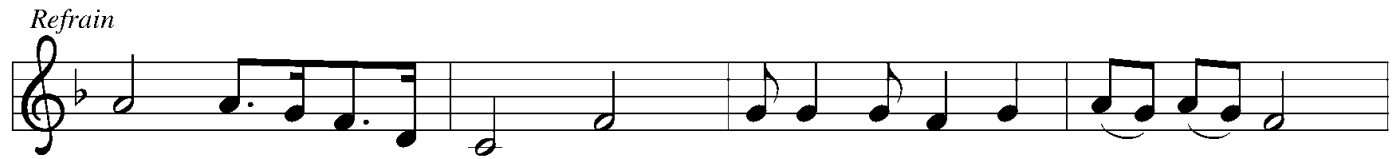
Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

All God’s Children Message


Pastor Brad Brauer

“A Look Around the Stable”
 (What would you have seen and heard?)

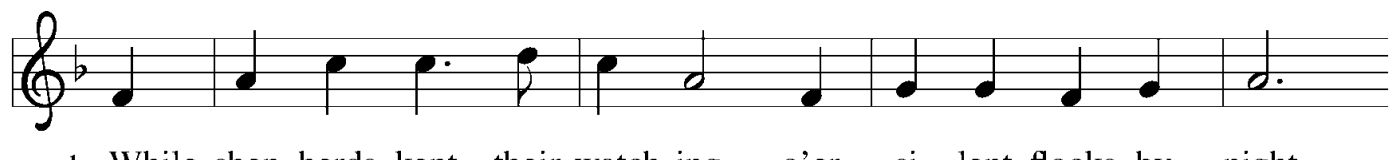
Refrain



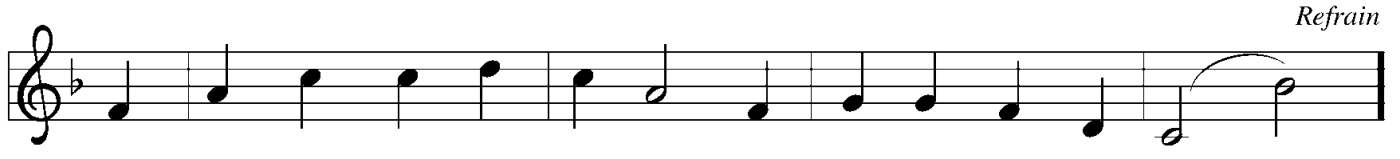
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Prayers of the People

Each bid or prayer ends with:

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer (traditional form)

**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.**

We Share the Peace of Christ

When the time was right, God sent the Only Son, Jesus to be our Redeemer. The Child of Bethlehem grew up to be our Teacher and Savior. Through the blood of his Cross he has reconciled all people to God's heart of love. God invites us to be reconciled to each other and share in the Peace that the Christ Child brought.

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

Greet one another with a sign of God's peace and remember our siblings scattered across Albuquerque and throughout the world.

Offertory Invitation

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due God's holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord with praise and thanksgiving. (Psalm 96)

Our Offerings are received *(be seated)*

*We are invited to give joyfully our tithes and offerings to join in God's unceasing mission to and through the Church here and beyond these 4 walls. Place your offerings in the basket in the aisle. You may also send gifts directly to **St. Luke Lutheran Church ELCA** via mail or contribute via our online giving resources on our church website <http://stlukeabq.org/>. You are also invited to give, in addition, to our December Bucket of Change recipient and its ministry. The Bucket of Change recipient for **December** is our **ELCA World Hunger Program** [website: ELCA.org/hunger] Working with and through congregations in the U.S.A. 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger reaches communities in need.*

Offertory Hymn

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

Nicholas Lopez, baritone

Candle Lighting & Hymn

(A Reading from John 1 is heard. The Christ Candle shines central in our midst . . .)

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of John. . **John 1:1-5** . . . "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was already with God in the beginning. ³ Everything came into existence through him. Not one thing that exists was made without him. ⁴ He was the source of life, and that life was the light for humanity. ⁵ The light shines in the dark, and the dark has never extinguished it." (God's Word Translation, by GWN Mission Society)

Pastor: "Jesus Christ is the light of the world: **A light no darkness can overcome.**

*The candles will be lighted row by row as the ushers walk down the center aisle. Once you receive the flame from a lighted upright candle, pass it on to your neighbor in the pew, being sure to **tip only an UNLIGHTED candle and to keep the lighted candle upright.** During the last verse of ELW 281 Silent Night, we will raise our candles high. **Please remain SEATED.***

Song of Light ELW 281

Silent Night, Holy Night!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Prayer for the Light.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** *(Please extinguish all candles.)*

Prayer & Pastoral Blessing

Glory to God in the Highest:

And on earth, peace, goodwill to all.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

Now may the Peace of God, announced to the shepherds by the angels, which exceeds all we can understand, keep our hearts and our minds in the knowledge and the love of God, and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ + our Lord), and the Holy Spirit, be upon you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW 267

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

Christ your Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Scripture Readings for Second Sunday of Christmas: Lessons & Carols on Dec. 28, at 10:30 AM:**

Genesis 3:1-19; Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 1:39-56; Luke 1:57-80; Luke 2:1-20;
Matthew 2:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18

****No worship service on Saturday, Dec. 27, and Sunday, Dec. 28, at 8:15 AM**

Participating in Today's Worship

Interim Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer

Pianist & Organist: John Garlisch

Vocalist: Nicholas Lopez

Readers: Holly Trujillo, Laura Jorgensen & family, Hazel Trujillo, Beau Griswold

Gospel Pageant: St. Luke Kids Spark and Godly Play

Ushers: Jean Hollowwa, Shirley Smith

Sound: Ken Sorenson

Jesus Christ, the Messiah from Bethlehem, is the light of the world. The light no darkness can overcome. He is that Light that shines in the darkest places. The Grace of God has appeared. The Prince of Peace in a warring, violent, dark world. Tonight we celebrate all these themes, knowing our need for the Church's gospel, truth, teaching, and divine Word. Our Christmas Eve liturgies juxtapose the old names for the Messiah/ king, Ruler, lord and the name, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. The old hopes are fulfilled. Bible Readings, often read at the enthronement of a king from Judah, are made to speak anew about Jesus our King. In faith in Him, all our burdens are carried, and our warring madness (garments rolled in blood) finds peace. The Gospel tells of the rule of the emperor Augustus in Rome and the local rule of the tyrant king of Judea, Herod. But this Child has his birth among the poor and outcast, the hungry and needy, the weak and vulnerable. He is welcomed by outcast unclean shepherds and foreign Magi kings and searching Inquirers. In contrast to the claims of Caesar Augustus, a far more profound Ruler from Bethlehem for all the world belongs to King Jesus of Nazareth. In the end, Jesus rules from his Cross to bring peace and joy in his death and resurrection victory, what Paul describes as a most powerful gospel word. The story says that there was no room in the Inn or Guestroom of Joseph's family. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we rightly welcome Jesus. Let us rightly labor for peace, justice, mercy, truth and love in his most holy Name. – Pr. Brad Brauer

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A Reading from the Gospel of John. . John 1:1-5 . . . from God's Word Translation, by GWN Mission Society, BibleGateway.com.

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St. Luke Lutheran Church

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† The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, Interim Pastor †

Danielle Cordova, Coordinator of Music Ministries

Precious Goodhart Nursery Care (Saturday) † Taylor Hollowwa, Nursery Care (Sunday)

Allie Brandt, Coordinator of Multi-Generational Ministries † Pamela Franco, Media Ministry Assistant

Michelle Barba, Business Manager † Angie Miller, Church Office Manager & Ministry Assistant

POINSETTIAS ARE OFFERED TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Jerry & Judy Aaker
In memory of our parents

Carol & George Allen
To the glory of God

D'Ann Anderson
In memory of Les

Betty Ann Arner

Steve & DeAnn Eaton Azar
In memory of Deann's twin sister DiAnn, who was a fabulous church organist

Betty Begeal
In memory of Dave Begeal

Joseph & Kathy Brem

Lori Erven
In loving memory of my parents, Ted & Betty Pierce

Nancy Espy & Roman Martin

Fidler Family

John & Jodi Feddema

Ginny Fisher
In memory of Don and of Anne

Brenda Gronewold
In memory of Bill Gronewold

Carrie Haugen
In memory of Marcus Mares, Wilbur & Hazel Haugen, and Paulagene Gordon

Hollowwa Family

Darryl Hooper
In memory of his father Scudder Hooper and his uncle Row

Megan Kalm
In memory of Marcus Mares and Inez Baker

Denny & Nancy Krenz
In memory of Gene Walter and Jerry Brannon

Judy Moore

Daleen Olson
In loving memory of Dale & Jane Sly; Leland & Zelma Wilder;
William & Reta Sly; and Bruce MacDonald

Magda Renteria

Barb & Terry Shirrod
In memory of our parents; and in honor of our grandsons