

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Albuquerque, New Mexico

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025 10:30 AM

St. Luke Worship Service

(in-person and e-worship)



¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."—Matthew 2:12

St Luke Lutheran Church
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Website: <http://www.stlukeabq.org/>

Find our Livestream online at Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stlukeabq/>

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Festival of Christmas Lessons and Music

adapted from *The Book of Occasional Services 1994* and *Oxford 100 Carols for Singers*

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make all gathered today and all of the world glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of His whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the church for which he died.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in His name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask you Lord to especially remember those names we hold in our hearts and bring to you now. *(You are invited to say aloud the names of those who need extra prayers.)*

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

**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.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876



Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 272, vs 1, & 2

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
 sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 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
 mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.

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



God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 256, vs 1 & 3

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High
 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 265, verses 1-2

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

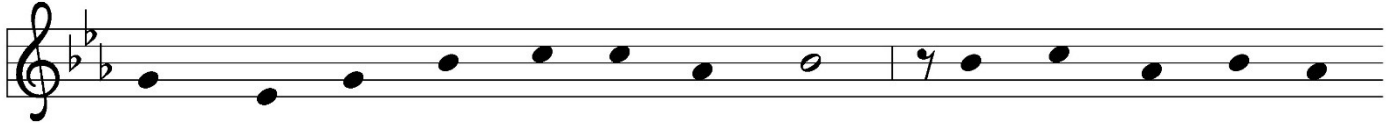
Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol



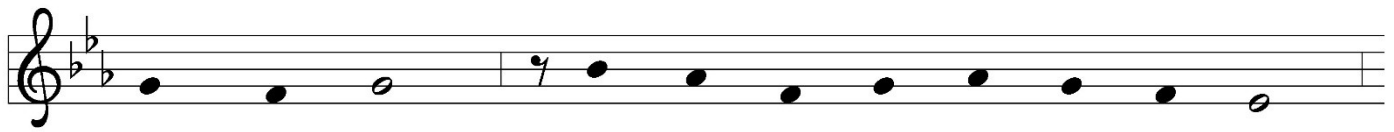
*The Virgin Mary is greeted by Elizabeth and proclaims her Joy*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 245, verses 1-2, 5

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

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John the Baptist is born and his father rejoices that his son will prepare the way of the Lord

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 278, vs 1 & 3

Away in a Manger (CRADLE SONG)



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleen on the hav.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 275, verses 1 & 2

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,



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, von-der shines the in - fant light.

Refrain



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

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Offering

We are invited to give joyfully our tithes and offerings to join in God's unceasing mission to and through the Church. Place your offerings in the basket in the Narthex entryway by the Sanctuary doors. You may also send gifts directly to St. Luke 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

Do You Hear What I Hear?
Words & Music by Noel Regney & Gloria Shayne; Arranged by Harry Simeone
St. Luke Pickup Choir

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son whose reign is for ever and ever

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 288

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



- 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.

*The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ELW 270, vs 1 & 3

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



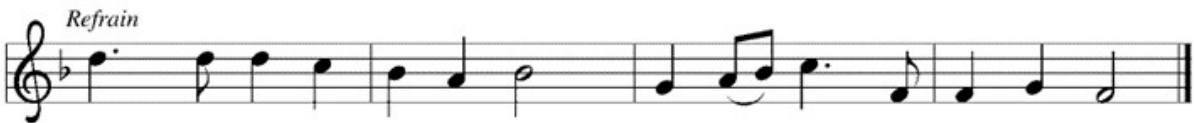
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

SENDING**Blessing**

May he, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

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

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

History of Lessons and Carols: In 1880 E. W. Benson, the Bishop of Truro, drew up a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for use on Christmas Eve in the wooden shed which served as his cathedral. In 1918 this was adapted for use in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote the Bidding Prayer [of which we are using a contemporary version] ... The Blessing after the Lord's Prayer, added by Milner-White, was first included in its present form in 1930. -*Oxford 100 Carols for Singers*.

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Participating in Today's Worship

Music Coordinator & Pianist: Danielle Cordova

Readers: Judy Aaker, DeAnn Eaton Azar, Ginny Fisher, Mary Voelz

Sound:

Ushers: Shirley Smith, Debbie Werner

Nursery Care: Taylor Hollowwa

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Danielle Cordova, Coordinator of Music Ministries † Nancy Granert, Organist

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

“From the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I ...” – Psalm 61:1-2

Let us offer our prayers for the wideness of God’s mercy for the whole world —

For the church universal, its bishops, for the newly baptized and confirmands, and for all the faithful, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel

† ELCA Missionary Carolyn Schneider in Guyana
† Blessing upon Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, Synod Bishop Meghan Aelabouni and the work of the Rockies Synod and its ministries, for the ministries of the ELCA in Jordan and the Holy Land and for her bishops and clergy seeking peace together with the Rabbis of Israel

For the well-being of your creation, that we may be good stewards of all your gifts and share generously with all who are in need, for an increase of peace and justice in the world,

† Healing for our country and unity for God's people
† *Jean Lunt, Paul Chamberlin*, Michael & Dasha, Kayla & family, Artemis, Terry Obago, Steve's family, Arden, Irene, Natalie and Vanessa; Brandon & Chris & Peter & Rogene (from Nancy Espy), Janie (from Daleen Olson), Callie Coughenour, Kurt Coughenour, Russ Glauner.

For the nations and those in authority, rulers, legislators, and judges, . . .

† School children in Nigeria; detained pastors and church leaders in East Asia
† The youth, those living in unsafe environment, those who are starving, those without families or homes, those who are deprived of good education - that they would hear and accept the good news of Jesus
† Israel, Gaza and the larger Middle East and in Ukraine; for Oksana’s family in Ukraine, for safety and an end to war and terror
† This community; for peace and security for all peoples, for this assembly here at St. Luke Church, for our growth in faith and service for the poor, oppressed
† Bucket of Change recipient for December: ELCA World Hunger

For the sick and infirm of body, mind, and spirit, those who live with incurable diseases, AIDS, malaria, last stage cancer, and polio

† *Maribel A*, William S (request sent via website), Virginia Moreno, Beatrice, Darryl Hooper, Judy, Mickey, Jena, Rusty, Bonnie Paine (& husband Bob), Debbie (& sister Diane), Fern Knudsen on hospice, Lola, for mental health and care; Jean Klinke
† For the hospitalized and recovering, especially those who will have surgery: *Mike R*, Socorro Morales, Noëlle Jaderborg, little James; Nancy

Blizzard; Wallace; Magdalena Barba (& family), Linsay Gear, Gina & Kevin Wilson, Roy (& family), Ruth & Bruce, Ginny, Frank Johnson, Dorela & John Cole, Andy H, Steve, Joe, Aleta, Donna who was in hospital, Pastor Zach Cook, Rebecca Horton's husband, Tina, Felisa, Pastor Brad's niece, Renae Brauer of Denver, following Chemotherapy and surgery;
Don, Daleen Olson, Myra Lynch; the Martinson families of Texas and Wisconsin in their grief and loss at the deaths of 2 grandmothers in the week before Christmas.

For the hungry and homeless on our streets and neighborhoods, for the mentally ill especially, for the lonely

† Amy, Juvanna, and Frankie, and others we pass by unable to help them sufficiently

For the congregation and its needs, and for its special concerns,

† The Call Committee and the Church Council
† St. Luke Preschool and the children and families
† Interim Pastor Brad, church committees/ministries, & staff
† *DW & Deborah Stephenson*, Andy H, Joyce, Nancy Granert, Forrest Blech, Sandy Bowers, Bob & Sherri Domres, Chrystal Vaughan, Karin Duda, Dorela Cole, Lorna Hill, Brenda Sanchez, Polly Brodbeck, Melda Burns, Leah Coughenour, Dottie Donohoe, Kay Dunbar, Lucille Few, Marie Lenard, Marv Plugge, Loretta Roe, Liz Wills (needs ride to church)
† For aging parents, whose caregivers we become.

We remember our loved ones who now are at rest and all the saints in our lives most dear to us who have lived out the faith and taught us by their great examples; we give thanks for our time with them, and, as we believe Jesus died and rose again, we look forward to uniting with them in eternal life with Him. We pray for comfort and peace for their families.

† *For the family of Marshall Shore, who died suddenly and unexpectedly on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025. Pray for his wife Rebecca Shore, their children Eliana & Evan, his parents Clare Castiglia & Larry Shore, and other family members.*
† *Family of Ann Madaras.*

Into your mercy we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting always in your mercy and love for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please submit your prayer requests to PrayerChain@StLukeABQ.org or contact the church office. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.