



# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025 at 10am

## Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

*As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.*

## THE GATHERING

### PRELUDE

French Overture

George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

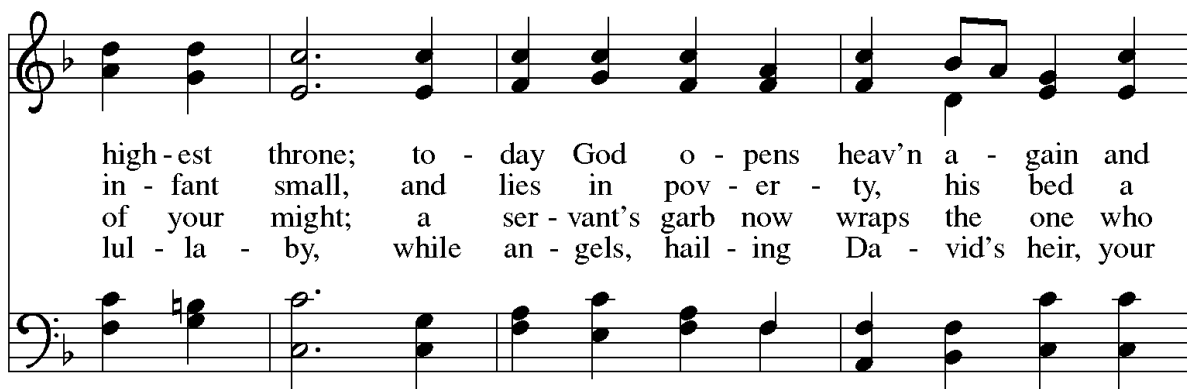
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

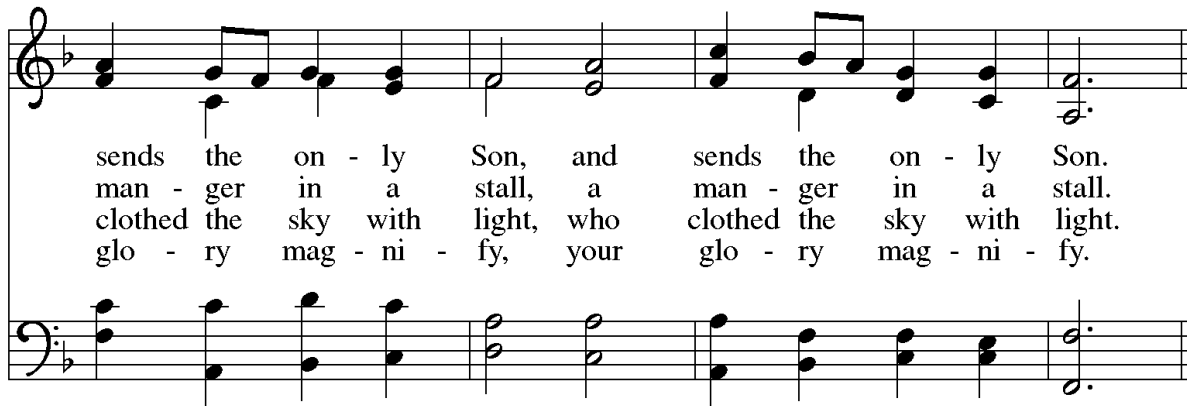
ELW 287 – Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the  
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an  
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor  
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a  
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who  
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.  
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.  
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.  
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:  
 you take our flesh and blood,  
 and in return give us to share  
 the shining realm of God,  
 the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today  
 that leads to paradise;  
 the angel bars the way no more.  
 To God let praises rise,  
 to God let praises rise!

## GREETING

A child has been born for us, a son given to us.

**He is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

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

**And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

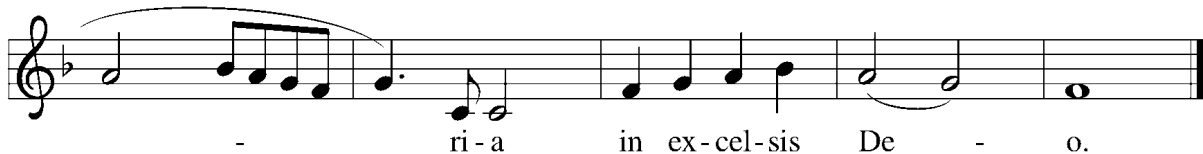
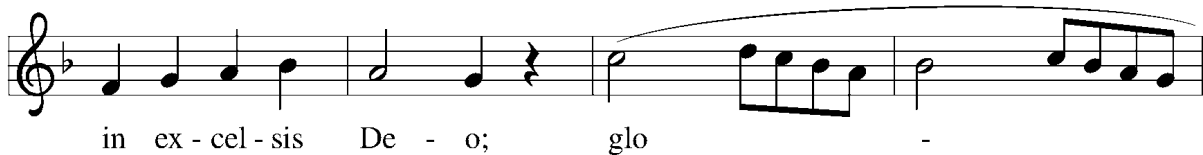
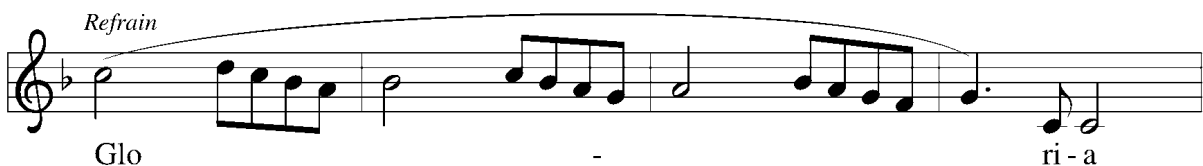
ELW 289 – Angels We Have Heard On High



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.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# THE WORD

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALTER HYMN (PSALM 148)

ELW 835 – All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,  
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-  
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
Alleluia.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

*Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.*

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting One

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23

*In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Morales

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

HFV 1349 – When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known



1 When Christ's ap - pear - ing was made known, King  
 2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far and  
 3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood the  
 4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, when  
 5 For this his glad e - piph - a - ny, all



Her - od trem - bled for his throne; but he who of - fers  
 fol - lowed on his guid - ing star; by light their way to  
 heav'n - ly Lamb in meek - ness stood, that he, of whom no  
 wa - ter red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and  
 glo - ry un - to Je - sus be; whom with the Fa - ther



heav'n - ly birth seeks not the king - doms of this earth.  
 light they trod, and by their gifts con - fessed their God.  
 sin was known, might cleanse his peo - ple from their own.  
 forth it flowed in streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Ghost for - ev - er - more.

## NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*After each portion of the prayers:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE MEAL

### OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at [saintlukegive.us](http://saintlukegive.us) or place it in the offering plate,  
or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



### OFFERTORY MUSIC

Pastorale  
*George Frideric Handel (1685 – 1759)*

*The offering is received and is presented at the altar.  
Please stand as you are able for the Offering Hymn.*

*Please stand.*

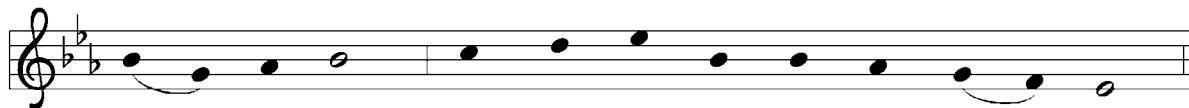


# OFFERING HYMN

ELW 295 – Of the Father's Love Begotten



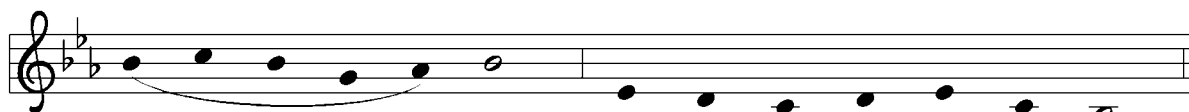
1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
4. Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray.

**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. Amen.**

# GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW Setting One

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# SANCTUS

ELW Setting One

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.

O God, of heaven and earth, into our fallen world you chose to come, resplendent in glory, in your only Son, a babe in the manger. On the cross he bore our sins and prepared for us the ultimate gift of salvation. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Prince of Peace with a living faith, as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. O come, Emmanuel.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

*Please pray in your own preferred language.*

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,  
santificado sea tu nombre,  
venga a nosostros tu reino,  
hagase tu voluntad,  
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;  
perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden;  
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,  
mas libranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino,  
el poder, y la gloria,  
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.  
Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.  
(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)*

*Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.


*The communicant may say:*

**Amen.**


## AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting One

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.




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.

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,  
and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 279 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

*4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

**Amen.**

# THE SENDING

## BLESSING

Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary.  
May his birth among us renew our hope.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

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# SENDING HYMN

ELW 290 – Go Tell It on the Mountain

*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,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

## DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God's people on earth!  
 Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

Prelude in C Major, BWV 547  
*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

# TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

## **PRESIDING MINISTER**

The Rev. Connie A. Miller  
*Senior Pastor*

## **READER**

Ruth Manchester, Parish Nurse, Director  
of Caring Ministries

## **PREACHING MINISTER**

The Rev. Franklin Morales  
*Priest in Charge*  
Christ Memorial Church  
Oshawa, Ontario

## **MUSICIAN**

Adam Scott Graham  
*Director of Music*

## **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Deacon Kyle Warfield  
*Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski  
*Confirmation Pastor*

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**We welcome as our guest preacher,** (thanks to technology) **Pastor Franklin Morales.** Pastor is a former pastor at Saint Luke and he and Jenny and their daughter, Sarah, continue to be associate members of the Saint Luke family. Pastor now serves in Oshawa, Ontario, as the Priest in Charge of Christ Memorial Anglican Church. Prior to this he served the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina as Canon Missioner for Latino and Hispanic Ministries.

Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers for Pastor Morales and family. We rejoice with him in this new position. We give thanks for the ministry and mission we share together in Jesus Christ.



**REMINDER:**

**NEXT SUNDAY**

**JANUARY 4**

**CELEBRATING THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**(The shepherds will be gone from the creche scene, but three sages from the east appear – who could they be??)**

**One morning worship service**

**10:00 a.m. (English)**

**1:00 p.m. (Spanish)**

## Today's Music

### ELW 287

#### **Let All Together Praise Our God**

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561;

tr. hymnal version

Music: Nikolaus Herman

Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN

### ELW 289

#### **Angels We Have Heard On High**

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy,

The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: French carol; arr. Edward S Barnes 1887-1958

Tune: GLORIA

### ELW 835

#### **All Creatures, Worship God Most High!**

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite

Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

### HFW 1349

#### **When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known**

Text: Coelius Sedulius, c. 5th cent.; tr. John M.

Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Music: Georg Wittwe's *Musikalisch Handbuch*, 1690

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW

### ELW 295

#### **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-

413; tr. composite

Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

### ELW 294

#### **In the Bleak Midwinter**

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

Tune: CRANHAM

### ELW 279

#### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Tune: ST. LOUIS

### ELW 290

#### **Go Tell It on the Mountain**

Text: African American spiritual, refrain;

John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: African American spiritual

Tune: GO TELL IT

**A  
BLESSED  
FOURTH DAY  
OF CHRISTMAS!**