

# LARGE PRINT EDITION



## HOLY COMMUNION

*First Sunday of Christmas*

*Fifth Day of Christmas*

December 29, 2024 + 9:30 am

*Jesus increased in favor with all*

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Learn Live and Share God's Word

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### *Christ the Child listens and asks questions*

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*

## GATHERING

*The disciples urged Jesus strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening, and the day is now nearly over."*

*So he went in to stay with them.*

### GATHERING MUSIC

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

*arr. M. Thompson*

*At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.*

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*(hymn) ELW 292*

"Love Has Come"

- 1 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 their song of joy arises:**

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

**2 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.**

**3 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!**

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950  
Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695

## **DIALOG & GREETING**

**P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**C** **Blessed be God forever.**

**A** The light shines in the darkness,

**C** **And the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C** **And we have beheld Christ's glory**

**A** To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C** **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**P** Grace to you, and peace, from God who shines among us.

**C** **And also with you.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

*(hymn)* **ELW 267**

“Joy to the Word”

stanzas 1 2, & 4

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*The presider continues with words of welcome.*

## WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

### CHILDREN'S WORD

*Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.*

### FIRST READING

*Samuel grew in favor with all*

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

*Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.*

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.

<sup>19</sup>His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

<sup>20</sup>Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

<sup>26</sup>Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

...Word of God, come down to us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalm 148 (ICEL)

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (148:13)*

A Praise the Lord! Across the heavens, from the heights,

**C all you angels, heavenly beings, sing praise, sing praise!**

A Sun and moon, glittering stars, sing praise, sing praise.

Highest heavens, rain clouds, sing praise, sing praise.

**C Praise God's name, whose word called you forth  
and fixed you in place forever by eternal decree.**

A Let there be praise: from depths of the earth,  
from creatures of the deep.

**C Fire and hail. Snow and mist, storms, winds,  
mountains, hills, fruit trees and cedars,  
wild beasts and tame, snakes and birds,**

A princes, judges, rulers, subjects,  
men, women, old and young, praise,

**C praise the holy name, this name beyond all names.**

A God's splendor above the earth, above the heavens,

**C gives strength to the nation, glory to the faithful,  
a people close to the Lord.**

A Israel, let there be praise!

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;  
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;  
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;  
both now and forever. Amen.**

## SECOND READING

*Clothe yourselves in love*

Colossians 3:12–17

*Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

<sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

...Word of God, come down to us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing:*

*ELW #253:*

- 1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

## GOSPEL

*Jesus increased in favor with all*

Luke 2:41–52

*Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual

for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Stanzas 3 and 4 bookend the proclamation of the gospel.:*

*ELW #253:*

**3 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

**4 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

Text Cameroon traditional

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*(hymn)* ELW 288

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

- 1 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 before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**
- 2 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!**
- 3 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!**

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

## APOSTLES' CREED

A ...Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,**



creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.*

A Rejoicing in the Word made flesh, let us pray for the Church,  
those in need, and all of God's creation.

*each petition concludes:*

...in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

## MEAL

*When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread,  
blessed and broke it and gave it to them.*

*Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.*

## PEACE

P Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.  
And his name is Prince of Peace.  
The light and peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.*

## **OFFERING**

*When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.*

"Christmas Lullaby"

*arr. name*

### **Presentation of the Gifts**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

A Let us pray together.

**C God of time and eternity,**

**you have given your only Son,**

**born of Mary, to save and redeem us.**

**Bless us with all good things, that the works of our hands  
through all the years of our lives may proclaim**

**the news of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*The assisting minister pours out the wine.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P ...and join their unending hymn. *(tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing)*

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord... God of hosts, by all adored! Heav'n and earth cannot contain... all the glory of your name. Hail, hosanna, God most high!... Blest is he who now draws nigh... In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing: Hail! Hosanna. Praise be due, evermore Lord God to you!**

*The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:*

**Lord's Prayer (1789)**

P As Christ teaches, we pray:

**C 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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion**

### **Communion**

"Lamb of God"

*setting 3; page 146*

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*silence for reflection concludes the communion*

## **Prayer after Communion**

**A** Let us pray.

God our Father, you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son for us. Increase and strengthen our faith and fix it firmly on the mystery of your Word made flesh, that we may triumph over all evil, through Christ who reigns forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## **SENDING**

*That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem.  
They told what had happened on the road and  
how he had been made to known to them in the breaking of the bread.*

## **BLESSING OF THE NEW YEAR**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*The presider continues the blessing, concluding with the benediction:*

**P** Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **SENDING HYMN**

*(hymn)* ELW 290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

### **Refrain**

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. Refrain**
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain**

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925,

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **DISMISSAL**

*Please face the worship leaders for the dismissal.*

**A** Go in peace. Christ is your light.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **POSTLUDE**

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*  
xxx, *assisting minister*

xxx, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*  
Sanctuary Choir

xxx, *tech desk*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

xxx, *ushers*

xxx, *bus ministry*

xxxx, *coffee hosts*

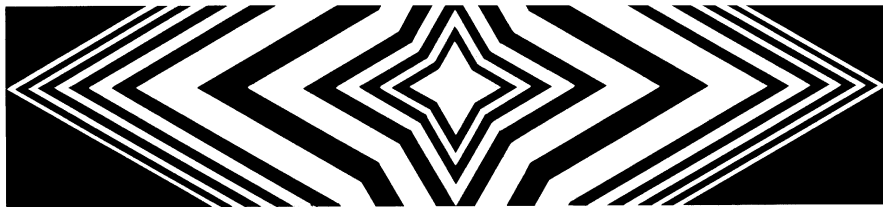
**Chancel flowers** this weekend are given by xxxx.

*If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.*

*Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.*

*This service is being streamed live on the internet.*

## WELCOME



**Everyone is welcome.** We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.


**Guests are welcome.** We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org)

**Children are welcome** at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

**Welcome to the Lord's Table.** All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

**Welcome to the Holy Baptism.** All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

### **Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected**

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot  in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto:pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org) for more information or to join.

**Digital giving** is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at [mountcarmelmpls.org](http://mountcarmelmpls.org) and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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**MT. CARMEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*learn, live and share God's word*

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