

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

*Second Sunday of Christmas
11th day of Christmas*

January 4, 2026 + 9:30 am

Flight to Egypt

All Are Welcome! Mt Carmel at 100 – Past Present Promise 1926 - 2026

In baptism, Christ our brother welcomes us

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the flight to Egypt and 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.

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

"Weaving Greensleeves"

arr. J. Nishimura

piano and flute

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

ENTRANCE CAROL

"The First Noel"

(hymn) ELW 300

stanzas 1, 2, 3 & 5

1 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.**

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

- 2 They looked 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. Refrain**
- 3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain**
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Refrain**

Text: English traditional

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

"Joy to the World"

(hymn) ELW 267
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.

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.

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

Israel saved by God's own presence

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.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

...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

Christ frees humankind

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.¹¹For 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,¹²saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴Since, 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, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

...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

Matthew 2:13-23

Herod's response to the magi:

The flight to Egypt & slaughter of innocent children

Matthew relates the slaughter of babies in Bethlehem as one example of evil in the world. Jesus has been born into this world to manifest God's presence and

save his people from their sins.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

After [the wise men] 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.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and 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.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, 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 wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“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.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get 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. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over 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. ²³There 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 Nazorean.”

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 296

“What Child Is This”

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?**
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?**
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to**
own him. The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

APOSTLES' CREED

A We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. 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.
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 as the plates are passed, in the narthex or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

“Rejoice and Be Merry”

W. E. Pelz

choir and flute

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)

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”

ELW 195

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, grant us peace.**

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the presence of Christ. Use us as beacons of light and bearers of Christ's love for the sake of the whole world. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

P May the love of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, fill your hearts and illumine your path.

Almighty God, Father, \ddagger 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, stanzas, alt.

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*
Audrey Erickson, *assisting minister*

Tessa Gurney, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Sanctuary Choir women

Jenny Focht, *flute*

Julie Larson, Anna Matthes, *tech desk*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Al Erickson, Steve Ristuben, *ushers*

Doug Jacobsen, *bus ministry*

Leona Olson, *coffee hosts*

Janell & Richard Wampler, *webcast sponsors*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by the Wirths
in honor of Elsa's 10th birthday.

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.



WORSHIP LIFE

Epiphany Revelation

The heart of our faith is the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, and the fact that what happened to Jesus is our destiny, too. We, too, in various ways and over time, will suffer, die and be raised up — all in the arms of a God who loves us. This is what is called the paschal mystery. We celebrate the paschal mystery every Sunday, and especially on Easter. But even as we celebrate Jesus' birth, we are celebrating this mystery.

There are hints all over the gospel accounts of Jesus' birth. When the baby is born, he is wrapped in swaddling clothes; when the man dies, he is wrapped in a shroud. The newborn is laid in the manger, the feeding trough of animals. The man grows up to teach us, "I am the bread of life. If you eat of my flesh and drink of my blood, you will live forever." Angels herald his birth, and angels announce his resurrection. A star shines over the baby in the manger; the sun hides its face as the man hangs on the cross. And perhaps most ominously of all, the magi — those mysterious strangers from other lands — bring gifts that seem sentimental and sweet to us today: gold, frankincense and myrrh. But were things people brought to a deathbed: gold coins to put in the mouth (as a sign of paying for the soul to take the ferry across the river of death), frankincense to burn (to cover the odors, and as a sign of the soul ascending), and myrrh to embalm. (Recall that the three women come to the tomb on Easter morning with a mixture of myrrh and aloes.) Others have said it was gold for a king, incense for a God, and myrrh for one who is to die.

And if there wasn't enough blood in the childbirth, recall that after Jesus is born, the Holy Family must flee into exile in Egypt to escape Herod, who slaughters in cold blood all the innocent baby boys of Bethlehem. As an adult, Jesus will right this wrong by shedding his blood on the cross for us all. But note that to protect Jesus, Mary and Joseph take him into Egypt, just

as their ancestors had fled there centuries before to escape starvation and find the other Joseph, the son of Jacob. So Jesus ends up living as a refugee and an exile, just as his people had done. And just as they had crossed the River Jordan to enter the promised land after the first Passover, the adult Jesus is baptized in that same river as he begins his ministry.

So Merry Christmas; Happy Epiphany — and Happy Easter, too.

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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

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 for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at 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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