



**December 24, 2025**  
**6:30 PM Worship Service**  
*"Even If... I Feel Forgotten"*  
*- Pastor Doug Widger*

## Welcome

### Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

### Opening Songs: O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him born the king of angels: *Refrain*

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*

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### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.

Text & Music: Public domain

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born that happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!

**Refrain:** O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text & Music: Public domain

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

### Confession and Absolution

Luke 2:10, 14

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace,

People: We gather on this not-so-silent night to celebrate the birth of the One who brings us peace. Yet, we are not at peace with You, with one another, or with ourselves. Our sinfulness can cause us to be filled with fear. For the sake of Jesus, the Child who was born and the Son who was given to redeem us from all lawlessness, purify us as Your people and make us zealous for good works.

Pastor: The angel said to the shepherds, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people." So, as God's servant, I say to you, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy." As a called and ordained servant in Christ's church and with His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

People: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:3-10

- 3 For thus says the LORD: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money."
- 4 For thus says the Lord GOD: "My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there, and the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing."
- 5 Now therefore what have I here," declares the LORD, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Their rulers wail," declares the LORD, "and continually all the day my name is despised.
- 6 Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here I am."

- 7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
- 8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
- 9 Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **Children's Message** - Pastor Doug Widger

### **Epistle Reading**

**Hebrews 1:1-6**

- 1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
- 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.
- 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.
- 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?
- 6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## **Choir Quartet: Sweet Little Jesus Boy**

### **Holy Gospel**

**John 1:1-14**

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

- 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.
- 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
- 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.
- 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
- 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
- 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Message Song: Even If**

*Verse 2:* They say it only takes a little faith  
To move a mountain  
Well good thing  
A little faith is all I have right now

*Pre-Chorus 1:* It's easy to sing  
When there's nothing to bring me down  
But what will I say  
When I'm held to the flame like I am right now

*Chorus:* I know You're able and I know You can  
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand  
But even if You don't  
My hope is You alone

*Verse 2:* They say it only takes a little faith  
To move a mountain  
Well good thing  
A little faith is all I have right now

*Pre-Chorus 2:* But God when You choose  
To leave mountains unmovable  
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing  
It is well with my soul

*Chorus:* I know the sorrow and I know the hurt  
Would all go away if You just say the word  
But even if You don't  
My hope is You alone

*Bridge:* You've been faithful  
You've been good all of my days  
Jesus I will cling to You  
Come what may  
'Cause I know You're able  
I know You care

*Chorus:* I know the sorrow and I know the hurt  
Would all go away if You just say the word  
But even if You don't  
My hope is You alone

*Ending:* It is well with my soul  
It is well it is well with my soul

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### Message: "Even If... I Feel Forgotten" - Pastor Doug Widger

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Offering

### Special Music: "Oh, Holy Night", sung by Payton Fortner

## Prayer of the Church

Pastor: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder.  
People: Praise God from whom all blessings flow! The glory of the Lord has come down to us in Christ. Alleluia!  
Pastor: O Wonderful Counselor,  
People: hear our prayers and grant us Your peace and favor.

Pastor: O Mighty God,  
People: give us eyes to see Your glory, ears to hear Your grace, and mouths to voice Your praise.

Pastor: O Everlasting Father,  
People: You sent Your Son into this world to be born of the virgin Mary, suffer under Pontius Pilate, be crucified, die, and be buried before rising to life again on the third day to redeem us from all lawlessness and purify for Yourself a people for Your own possession. We thank and praise You for making us Your people and making Your favor shine on us.

Pastor: O Prince of Peace,  
People: we ask that You give us the peace that surpasses all understanding, that we trust that You have come into our imperfect world to bring the perfect gift of salvation, which You have freely given to us.

*Silence for personal prayer.*

Pastor: Into Your hands, O gracious Lord, we place our prayers and praise. We place ourselves and our loved ones into Your care, trusting in Your mercy and coming to You with confidence, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God forever.

People: Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

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.

## Communion

Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB #368  
vs. 1-3

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
  
Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

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## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB #380, vs. 1-3

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

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## Agnus Dei

**Verse:** Alleluia alleluia  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia alleluia  
For the Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia

**Chorus:** (You are) Holy holy  
Are You Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb  
You are holy holy  
Are You Lord God Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Worthy is the Lamb  
Amen

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## The Blood

**Verse 1:** Everything changed it's getting harder to recognize  
The person I was before I encountered Christ  
I don't walk like I used to  
I don't talk like I used to  
I've been washed from the inside  
I've been washed from the inside out

**Chorus:** Hallelujah hallelujah  
I know it was the blood  
Could have only been the blood  
(Repeat)

**Verse 2:** I cannot explain but nothing's more real than this  
In the presence of God oh what my heart experienced  
When my shame hit the wayside  
And my sin met the Most High  
I was washed from the inside  
I was washed from the inside out

**Bridge:** It's never been about performance perfection  
Or striving for acceptance  
Let me tell you it's only by the blood  
It's never been about deserving or earning  
It's a gift that's freely given  
Let me tell you it's only by the blood

*Bridge 2: Does anybody want to be holy righteous  
Purified and spotless  
Let me tell you it's only by the blood  
Does anybody want to be worthy forgiven  
Justified really living  
Let me tell you it's only by the blood*

**(Chorus)**

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## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Lord our God, for the sake of the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace,

People: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that,  
on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints,  
celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has  
no end;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## Benediction

*Romans 15:13*

Pastor: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by  
the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

People: Amen.

## Lighting of the Candles

### Sending Song - Choir Quartet: Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB #363  
vs. 1-3

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.  
  
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'ly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!  
  
Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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## COMMUNION NOTES

A traveling tray will be available for those who desire it. Gluten-free wafers are available. Grape juice is provided on the inner ring of the communion tray.

### We ask ourselves questions of examination:

- Do I believe that I am a sinner and am I sorry for my sins?
- Do I believe that Jesus is my Savior and that through faith in Him my sins are forgiven?
- Do I believe that in this meal I receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus, for the forgiveness of my sins, not just a symbol of it?
- Do I intend, with the help of God, to live a Christian life?

**We welcome to the altar all who answer yes to these questions and believe as we do.**

Those who have never communed with us before are asked to speak to the Pastor or Elder before the service. If you're not ready to participate in the Lord's Supper with us, please feel free to come forward.

Folding of your arms will indicate to the Pastors your desire to receive a blessing.

**Thursday, December 25, 2025**

10:00 AM **Christmas Day Worship Service: "Lessons and Carols"** - Sanctuary

12:00 PM **Christmas Day Spanish Worship Service**



### POINSETTIA Dedications

Thank you to those who donated poinsettias decorating the altar. Please wait until after the 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> to take them home.

- ◊ Walter E. Baumann, in memory of his wife, Diane L. Baumann
- ◊ Eric & Bette Rathjen, in memory of their parents
- ◊ Jeanette Naumann, in memory of Ed and Virgil (2)
- ◊ Gary & Susan White, in honor of Family
- ◊ Gary & Susan White, in honor of Life
- ◊ John & Tracey Rukavina, in memory of loved ones (2)
- ◊ Samantha Hosti, in memory of loved ones (5)
- ◊ Cecilia Weisenfels, in memory of Gerald Weisenfels
- ◊ Cecilia Weisenfels, in memory of Rosemary Kohl
- ◊ Santa George, in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Tommy & Delores Smith, in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Mike & Shawn Curtis, in memory of their fathers (2)
- ◊ Carol Hall, in memory of her husband, Bill Hall
- ◊ Nancy McCormick, in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Joe & Phyllis Sparks, in memory of friends: Dick, Dave, & Don
- ◊ Joe & Phyllis Sparks, in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Joe & Phyllis Sparks: Thanks be to God!

- ◊ Richard & Paula Crossman, in memory of Ann, Charlotte, Garland, Joan, Jim Bolthouse, & Floyd Harding
- ◊ Steve & Alison Roth, in memory of their parents
- ◊ Steve & Alison Roth, in memory of their brothers
- ◊ Steve & Alison Roth: Thanksgiving to God!
- ◊ Roberto Espitia, in memory of Julia
- ◊ Nat & Doris Davies, in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Nat & Doris Davies, in honor of their children: Doris, Dorothy, & Charles
- ◊ Nancy Grieser, in loving memory of her husband, Norm
- ◊ Nancy Grieser, in honor of dear family and friends
- ◊ Virginia Hankins, in memory of her husband, Wayne Hankins
- ◊ Mike & Dorothy Kennedy, in honor of family, and in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Evan Desroches, in memory of Evelyn Desroches
- ◊ Ali Desroches, in memory of Stephanie McCommon
- ◊ Kae Wagoner, in memory of Jessie Hunt
- ◊ Barb Koehn, in memory of her husband, Phil Koehn
- ◊ Russell Hildebrandt, in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Deborah Hildebrandt, in memory of loved ones
- ◊ Santiago & Emily Massey, in honor of their Wedding Anniversary

### Giving to Grace Lutheran Church during the Holidays

We are so grateful for your generous donations throughout the year and are praying for a strong finish with your help. **The church office will be open Monday and Tuesday, Dec 29 and 30 from 9 AM - 5 PM, but closed on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31.** Please keep this in mind if you need to drop off a year-end donation.

Gifts given at worship service offerings or hand delivered to the church office in 2026 must receive giving credit in 2026, so if you need to insure your gifts are counted in the 2025 calendar year, if mailing a check, envelopes must be postmarked no later than 12-31-25. You can contribute online wherever you're worshipping from by visiting our [online donation page](#). ("Ways to Give" at [grace.lc](http://grace.lc))

\* To receive giving credit for cash gifts, please fully fill out an offering envelope with your name, address, and contact information.

