



**Pilgrim**  
LUTHERAN  
**Church**

## Divine Service



**December 28, 2025**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

# Welcome

## Opening Hymn

### 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.

## Confession and Forgiveness

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage 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**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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**

## The Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Songs of Praise

### Jesus Name Above All Names

Jesus name above all names  
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord  
Emmanuel God is with us  
Blessed Redeemer living Word

Jesus loving Shepherd  
Vine of the branches Son of God  
Prince of Peace Wonderful Counselor  
Lord of the universe Light of the world

Praise him Lord above all lords  
King above all kings God's only Son  
The Prince of Peace who by his Spirit  
Comes to live in us Master and Friend

## Ever Be

Your love is devoted like a ring of solid gold  
Like a vow that is tested like a covenant of old  
Your love is enduring through the winter rain  
And beyond the horizon with mercy for today

Faithful You have been and faithful You will be  
You pledge Yourself to me and it's why I sing

Your praise will ever be on my lips  
Ever be on my lips  
Your praise will ever be on my lips  
Ever be on my lips  
(REPEAT)

You Father the orphan  
Your kindness makes us whole  
You shoulder our weakness  
And Your strength becomes our own  
You're making me like You  
Clothing me in white  
Bringing beauty from ashes  
For You will have Your bride

Free of all her guilt and rid of all her shame  
And known by her true name and it's why I sing

Your praise will ever be on my lips  
Ever be on my lips  
Your praise will ever be on my lips  
Ever be on my lips  
(REPEAT)

You will be praised You will be praised  
With angels and saints we sing worthy are You Lord  
You will be praised You will be praised  
With angels and saints we sing worthy are You Lord  
And it's why I sing

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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.**

# First Reading

## Isaiah 63

7 I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,  
the praises of the LORD,  
according to all that the LORD has granted us,  
and the great goodness to the house of Israel  
that he has granted them according to his compassion,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

8 For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely."  
And he became their Savior.

9 In all their affliction he was afflicted,  
and the angel of his presence saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

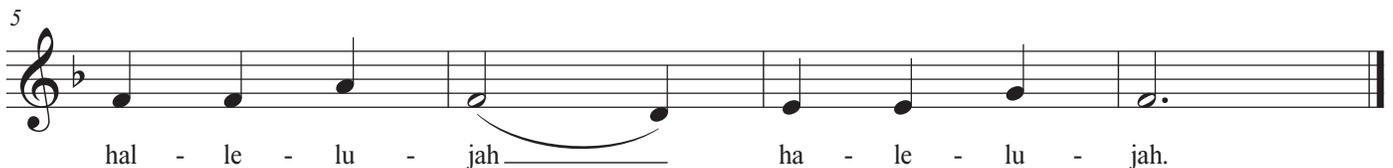
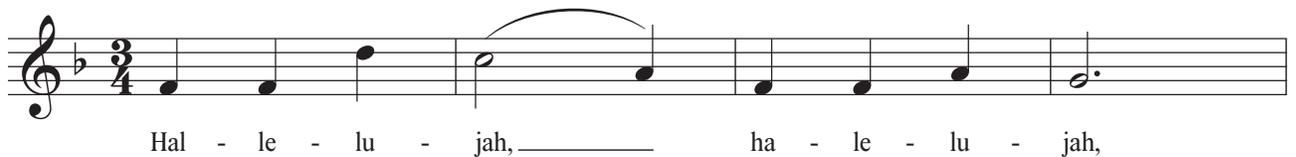
## Psalm

### Psalm 148

#### Tone



#### Refrain



#### Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord • from the heavens;  
praise God • in the heights.

**2 Praise the Lord, • all you angels;  
sing praise, all you • hosts of heaven.**

3 Praise the Lord, • sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you • shining stars.

**4 Praise the Lord, heav- • en of heavens,  
and you waters a- • bove the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the name • of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they • were created,

**6 who made them stand fast forev- • er and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not • pass away.**

**Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

7 Praise the Lord • from the earth,  
you sea monsters • and all deeps;

**8 fire and hail, • snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- • ing God's will;**

9 mountains • and all hills,  
fruit trees • and all cedars;

**10 wild beasts • and all cattle,  
creeping things and • flying birds;**

11 sovereigns of the earth • and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers • of the world;

**12 young • men and maidens,  
old and • young together.**

**Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

13 Let them praise the name • of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over • earth and heaven.

**14 The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all • faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. • Hallelujah!**

**Glory be to the Father and • to the Son  
and to the Holy • Spirit;  
as it was in the be - • ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. • Amen.**

**Refrain: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

## **Second Reading**

### **Galatians 4**

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the second chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, 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." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Rev. Lew Upchurch**

# Confession of Faith

## Nicene' Creed

**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

*Following each prayer petition:*

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

# Offering

## The Sacrament of the Altar

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 our duty and our joy...evermore praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed + is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.**

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## Words of Institution

### The 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.**

### O Lamb of God...



## Ways to Commune

**Intinction** – Pastor places bread in hands. Communicant dips bread in chalice held by Communion Assistant.

**Sealed Cups** – Gluten-Free in Blue and Alcohol-Free in Pink are available (take to seat, and we will commune together).

**Prayer** – Approach the communion table with arms crossing your chest.

## Communion Song

### What Child is This?

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

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

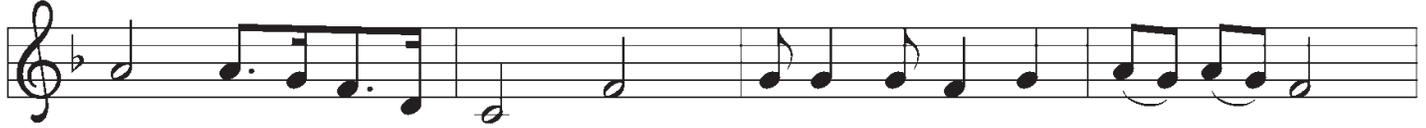
So bring Him incense gold and myrrh  
Come peasant king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him  
Raise raise the song on high  
The Virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy joy for Christ is born  
The Babe the Son of Mary

## Blessing

# Closing Hymn

## 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.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## Announcements

## Joy to the World/Joyful Joyful

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and Heaven and nature sing

We will sing sing sing  
Joy to the world  
We will sing sing sing

Joy to the World the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

We will sing sing sing  
Joy to the world  
We will sing sing sing

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

We will sing sing sing  
Joy to the world  
We will sing sing sing

Joyful joyful we adore Thee  
God of glory Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee  
Op'ning to the sun above

*Please use the basket in the Narthex to dispose of your used  
Holy Communion Cups as you leave the Sanctuary*

# Sermon Notes



# Serving at Worship Today

## **Preaching & Presiding**

Rev. Lew Upchurch

## **Director of Music**

Mary Harper

# Upcoming Events



**Learn more about all upcoming events at [pilgrimsm.org/calendar](https://pilgrimsm.org/calendar)**

## **Putting Christmas to Rest (Until Next Year!)**

**Saturday, January 10th** at 9:00 - 11:00 AM

*Help with taking down the Christmas decorations*

## Pilgrim Giving



Your faithful financial stewardship is as important as ever. We will be creating cards with QR code to access online giving.

## Serve at Pilgrim



Interested in serving at Pilgrim? Scan the QR code or go to <https://pilgrims.org/serve-at-divine-service/> to complete an information form. We will contact you when trainings are scheduled for various service opportunities.

## Bible App



Scan this QR code to download a Bible app and access scripture, devotionals, and more right from your phone!



**Pilgrim**  
L U T H E R A N  
**Church**

Called by the Holy Spirit,  
**we are an intergenerational community of  
worship and service**  
that invites the people of  
Santa Monica and beyond  
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ  
through Word and Sacraments.**

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