



First Lutheran

Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

You are created uniquely by God and you are welcome here.
Your Abilities· Age· Culture· Economic Status· Gender Expression/Identity·
Life Circumstances· Marital Status· Questions· Race· Sexual Orientation·
are welcome here.

L = Leader; C = Congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

L: God of us all, we come as your faithful to Bethlehem on this silent night. We come to gather around the manger and see for ourselves this wondrous thing of which we have heard. We come to worship the baby, born to be king. Make us worthy to receive your gift of grace, O God. And let us go from this place a people renewed in our faith to give your gift of love and peace to each person we meet, as it was given to us so long ago. Come, let us worship the newborn king!

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ELW #283 (vs. 1-3)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our sins with confidence in God’s promise of forgiveness. *Silence is kept for reflection*

L: God, wonderful counselor,

C: we confess that we are not at peace –with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

L: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of † Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

L: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

The Christ Candle is lit in Silence.

C: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary, his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE *"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

ELW #290

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray together.....

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD SPEAK TO US

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

ELW #279 vs. 1 & 2

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

ELW #270 vs. 1 & 2

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"What Child Is This"

ELW #296

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God the source of all light and life.

We believe God sent Jesus Christ the Word Incarnate into this world, so that all may be bathed in his light and know the true source of life. Born humbly in a manger this night, is the Son of God. He is the light in the darkness –sent from God to save us from our sins.

We believe we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to share the good news of his birth, life, ministry and resurrection. On this night, as we celebrate Christ's birth, we affirm the mystery of our faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: . . . Merciful God,
C: **receive our prayer.**

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

OFFERING/MUSICAL OFFERING

Stewardship Reflection - *We are celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Savior, Lord and friend. He is the greatest gift of all. In this season of gift-giving please remember that there are many families in our community who are in need all year long. Thank you for your prayers, and generous gifts of money, food and presents to local charities.*

OFFERING HYMN “*What Feast of Love*”

ELW #487 vs. 1 &3

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Merciful God,

C: Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*SUNG TO “AWAY IN THE MANGER” MELODY*)

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your Name!
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away:
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign,
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION: RECEIVE CHRIST IN BREAD AND WINE

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

C: Amen.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

LITANY OF LIGHTS

L: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

L: Jesus said, "I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

C: In Him was life, and the life was light of all. In His name we light our candles, and the Lord our God enlightens our darkness.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(The ushers will light the candle of the person at the end of each row, the person next to them will light their candle from the lit one. Please Dip only the unlit candle when lighting.)

HYMN: "*Silent Night, Holy Night!*"

**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.**

(lift candles)

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

(lift candles higher and pause for the reading)

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS.....John 1:1-14

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

The Candles are Extinguished

WE SEND TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

L: May the God who comes from heaven above be born in your hearts and lives this day and always.

C: Amen.

HYMN: “*Joy to the World*”

ELW #267 vs. 1,2, & 4

L: Go in Peace. Christ is with us. **C: Thanks be to God!**



Please deposit your candles in the boxes as you leave the sanctuary.



Our “**Christmas Outreach Offering**” will be given to *Community Action of Skagit County* to help those impacted by our recent flooding. **If you would like your offering directed to these efforts, please write “Flood Relief” in the memo portion of your check.**

Thank you for remembering those who are in need.
Merry Christmas to all.