



# THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

1515 Boundary St. • Newberry, SC 29108 • (803) 276-2003 • [www.redeemernewberry.org](http://www.redeemernewberry.org)

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Wednesday, December 24, 2025 5:00 pm



# ✠ GATHERING ✠

## VOLUNTARIES

*A Lovely Rose is Blooming*  
*Improvisation on What Child is This*  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
*The Friendly Beasts*  
*Once in Royal David's City*  
*Still, Still, Still*

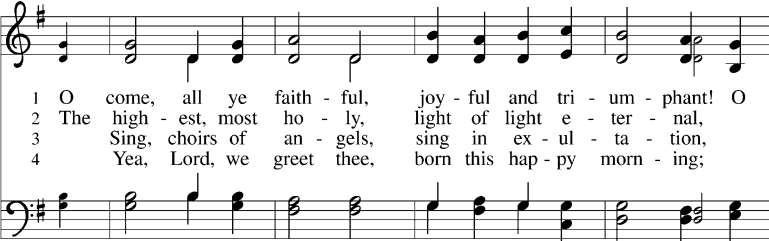
Johannes Brahms  
 Richard Purvis  
 David Cherwein  
 David Lasky  
 J. Wayne Kerr  
 Robert Bucklee Farley  
 Paul Manz

<We stand.>

## ENTRANCE HYMN

## O Come All Ye Faithful

ELW 283



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels;  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



*Refrain*  
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

## INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

**Amen. Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...

**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 sit.>*

## CHORAL ANTHEM

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

## ✠ WORD ✠

## THE FIRST LESSON

### ISAIAH 9:2-7

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood be burned as fuel for the fire. For 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. Great will be his authority, 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 this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## THE SECOND LESSON

### TITUS 2:11-14

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while 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.*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL**

**Once in Royal David's City, vs. 1 & 2**

ELW 269

1 Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

**GOSPEL**

**LUKE 2:1-20**

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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 in the guest room.*

*Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL      Once in Royal David's City, vs. 3 & 4**

ELW 269

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.  
<We sit.>

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
there his children gather round,  
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Away in a Manger**

ELW 277

*As the children come forward, we sing verse 1*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*As the children return to their seats, we sing verse 3*

**Away in a Manger**

ELW 277

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven,  
to live with you there.

**SERMON**

Rev. Matthew Titus

<We stand.>

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**It Came upon the Midnight Clear**

ELW 282

<sup>1</sup>It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

<sup>3</sup>And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!

<sup>2</sup>Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

<sup>4</sup>For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the 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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*Each petition will end with 'hear us, O God.' The appropriate response is 'your mercy is great.'*

*<We kneel.>*

*<We stand.>*

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*<We sit.>*

## ✠ MEAL ✠

## RECEPTION OF THE OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

David Cherwien

*<We stand.>*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### What Child is This? vs. 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!

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessing you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may  
rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give  
thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior  
Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to  
a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be  
drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW setting 5 page 162

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy one, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the shadow and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hope and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all your people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray ...

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*<We sit.>*

## COMMUNION

*Participation in Holy Communion is open to all the baptized of this and other Christian congregations. We come in faith that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and the wine. We receive this gift knowing that we are forgiven and are nourished to be sent to proclaim God's love to the world.*

**SOLO**

**O Holy Night**

Adolphe Adam

*<We stand.>*

## THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hours the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

## THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

*After the communion blessing the lights in the church are extinguished.*

*The pastor, taking a candle, lights it from the candle which symbolizes Christ, the light of the world. Then the minister says:*

**The light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overtake it.**

**The darkness will never overtake it.**

*The pastor gives light to the ushers; they in turn give light to the first worshiper in each pew, who passes it on.*

*For safety's sake, when sharing the light with another, the lighted candle is always held upright.*

*A short reading will be read as the candles are being lit. After all candles are lighted, the service continues.*

## CANDLELIGHT HYMN

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

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!

ELW 282

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.

## ✠ SENDING ✠

### SUNG BLESSING

In the name of the Father.  
**In the name of the Father.**  
In the name of the Son.  
**In the name of the Son.**  
In the name of the Spirit.  
**In the name of the Spirit.**  
The Three-in-One.  
**The Three-in-One.**

May the Lord bless and keep you.  
**May the Lord bless and keep you.**  
May God's face shine upon you.  
**May God's face shine upon you.**  
May God's blessings be with you.  
**May God's blessings be with you.**  
And give you peace.  
**And give you peace.**

### SENDING HYMN

Angels we have heard  
on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the  
plains,  
and the mountains in  
reply,  
echoing their joyous  
strains.

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Shepherds, why this  
jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains  
prolong?  
What the gladsome  
tidings be  
which inspire your  
heav'nly song?

ELW 289

Come to Bethlehem and  
see  
him whose birth the  
angels sing;  
come, adore on bended  
knee  
Christ the Lord, the  
newborn king.

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

## DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

**Peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God!**

## VOLUNTARY

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Michael Burkhardt

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Huger Caughman, Jr's 48<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 26<sup>th</sup> by Huger, Anne, Kristin, Wayden, and Dennis Caughman.

## Announcements

Welcome to Redeemer! We are pleased to have you with us at worship this evening. If you have any questions or need any assistance please speak with an usher.

We invite you to join us at worship every Sunday morning at 10:30 am. We celebrate as we gather to give praise and honor to God and are encouraged to live out God's love for all in the world. Sunday School is offered for all ages beginning at 9:30 am.\

If you donated a poinsettia feel free to take it with you following the Christmas Eve service.

### Worship Leadership - Christmas Eve Service

**Worship Asst:** Nikki Chapman

**Acolyte:** Levi Richardson

**Crucifer:** Henry Chapman

**Comm Prep:** Huger Caughman, Jr.

**Bible Bearer:** Thomas Boozer

**Torch Bearers:** Lendy Miller

Gavin Garner

**Altar Flowers:** Caughman Family

**Ushers:** Members of Redeemer

**The Rev. Matthew Titus, Pastor · Haley McBride-Stuhr, Office Assistant & Bookkeeper**

**Dr. Huger Caughman, Jr., Organist · Nicholas Todd Shumate, Choir Director**

**A/V Team: Annette Belcher, Wayden Caughman, Nikki Chapman, and Matt Bowers**

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

