



St. Mary's Lutheran Church—ELCA
www.stmaryslutheran.org
Christmas Eve Worship~5:00pm & 8:00pm
December 24, 2025
Greetings and Blessings to you!



- Please respect the beauty of reverence and quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.
- Turn off phones or silence them.
- Please know that St. Mary's Lutheran Church celebrates Holy Communion for ALL! This is Christ's table and His invitation. You do not need to be a Lutheran, or a member of our church to participate. Also, if you wish to come up for only a blessing, please tell us when you approach, and we will bless you! If you are unable to come up for communion, tell the usher that you would like to receive communion at your seat, and someone will bring it to you.

PRELUDE

Youth Orchestra (5:00pm) "O Holy Night" ARR. DR. BRAGI THOR VALSSON

Duet (8:00pm) "In dulci jubilo", ARR. M. PRAETORIUS

*Latin text: In sweet jubilation, our joy lies in the manger,
[safe] in his mother's keeping, Alpha and Omega.*

Men's Ensemble (8:00pm) "O Jesu, So Sweet, O Jesu, So Mild" - S. SCHEIDT

WELCOME

STAND

CHRIST CANDLE /WREATH LIGHTING

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.

We confess that we have not always prepared

room in our hearts for your love;

we have not always recognized your presence among us;

we have not always embraced your message of peace.

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

We confess our failure to make room

for those seeking refuge;

our participation in violent systems

that harm your innocent ones;

our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today

and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✚ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

GATHERING SONG Hymn #267 "Joy to the World!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY (see yellow sheet)

SIT

SPECIAL MUSICAL OFFERING

A Chord with the Lord (5:00pm) "What Child is This"

Adult Choir (8:00pm) "Come Run, Ye Shepherds" ARR. HAL H. HOPSON

*Come run, ye shepherds! The star is shining, the gates of Bethlehem high are lifted.
Make haste to enter, and find the stable, And kneel down and worship the newborn King.
Come play your pipe, come play your drum; Make merry and dance the way along,
For Christ is born, yes, Christ is born; Yes, Jesus, our Savior, is born.
Sing Noel on the way to Bethlehem; Come and join us; Jesus, the Savior, is Born.
The prophets wrote, the sages spoke of this night of wonder, this night of joy;
Come join our hearts, come join our voices in praise of the newborn King.*

WORD (see yellow sheet)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 96 (read responsively)

Second Reading: TITUS 2:11-14

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS CONNECTION (5:00pm)

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Hymn #289 "Angels We Have Heard On High", vs. 1 & 2

Gospel: LUKE 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SIT

SERMON

STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY Hymn #279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Receive our prayer, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SIT

OFFERTORY

Trio (5:00pm) "We Have a Savior"; Bjorn Hanson, guitar

Adult Choir(8:00pm) "What is this Lovely Fragrance?" ARR. HEALEY WILLAN

*What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, Hear you not heav'nly caroling?*

*What is this light so fair, so tender
Breaking upon our wondering eyes?*

Never the Morning Star so radiant Followed his course o'er eastern skies.

*Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps
Seek the Saviour, born today.*

Low at His feet we lay our treasure, Heart's adoration, love for aye.

STAND

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings 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.

THE 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.

It is indeed right ...join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (TO THE TUNE OF HYMN #270 "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING")

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! Praises due be forever, Lord to You!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

SIT

COMMUNION

Directions: We welcome all to Holy Communion. Christ is present and you are welcome! Young children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. We offer gluten-free & regular wafers, grape juice and wine options. If you are unable to come forward, please remain seated and tell the ushers you'd like communion in your seat and it will be brought to you. The ushers will direct all during communion.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

Hymn #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn #282 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Hymn #276 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

STAND

COMMUNION PRAYER

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts 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.

HYMN OF LIGHT Hymn #281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

The minister lights a large candle from the Christ candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

BLESSING

May the babe of Bethlehem
bring you peace;
May the child of Nazareth
bring you joy;
May the man of Galilee
bring you strength;
May the Christ of Calvary
bring you courage;
May the risen Jesus
bring you hope
And the ascended Christ
a foretaste of his glory.

-FATHER GEORGE POTTER OF PECKHAM
ANGLICAN FRANCISCAN FRIAR (1887-1960)



The candles are extinguished.

~ PLEASE LEAVE CANDLES IN BASKETS IN NARTHEX ~

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!



*Christmas Morning Worship is 9:00am at
Lakeside Lutheran Church—3833-8th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 54140.*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP LEADERS

PASTOR: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

SOUND/VIDEO: Art Kotenko

SACRISTY HELP: Pat Gallo, Lisa Zanin, Gretchen Rasch

ORGAN/PIANO ACCOMPANIST: Deb Black

5:00PM:

ASSISTING MINISTER/READER: Julie Schmit

KIDS CONNECTION: Kendra Richter

A CHORD WITH THE LORD: Kendra Richter, Christina Oldani, directors

TRIO: Maggie Salmon, Brooke Robinson, Emma Eltoft

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Kay Manderfeld,
Dave & Leslie Sandahl

GREETERS: Kay & Dave Manderfeld

8:00PM:

ASSISTING MINISTER: Harold Frush

READER /DIRECTOR: Richard Sjoerdsma

MENS' ENSEMBLE: Chip Milholland, Kevin Larsen,
Tony Beer, Harold Frush, Rod Pfeiffer, Dick Sjoerdsma

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jackie Larsen, Patricia
Mason, Laura Miesbauer

GREETER: Andrea Beer

Special Thanks to EVERYONE who helped in
preparing the sanctuary for our Christmas season
with tidy pews, banners, poinsettias, trees, lights &
sacristan preparations.

St. Mary's runs on volunteers—"Thank You" to ALL volunteers this year!