



St. Mary's Lutheran Church ~ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday, January 4, 2026 ~ 9:00am

SECOND SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

*Please respect the beauty of reverence and quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.
Turn off phones or silence them.*

Also 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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand in body or spirit.

GATHERING SONG *Hymn 287 "Let All Together Praise Our God" vs. 1, 2, 3, 6*

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *"This is the Feast" Pages 149 –150*

PRAYER OF THE DAY (see yellow insert)

PLEASE BE SEATED

WORD (see yellow insert)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20 (read responsively)

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

SERMON

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hymn #510 "Word of God, Come Down on Earth"*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Receive our prayers, 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.

PLEASE BE SEATED
MEAL
MUSICAL OFFERING

Ariel Gauslow, solo
"Virgin's Slumber Song" - MAX RAGER

Please stand in body or spirit

OFFERING Hymn #793 "Be Thou My Vision", vs. 1, 3

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

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 ...join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (HOLY, HOLY, HOLY)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

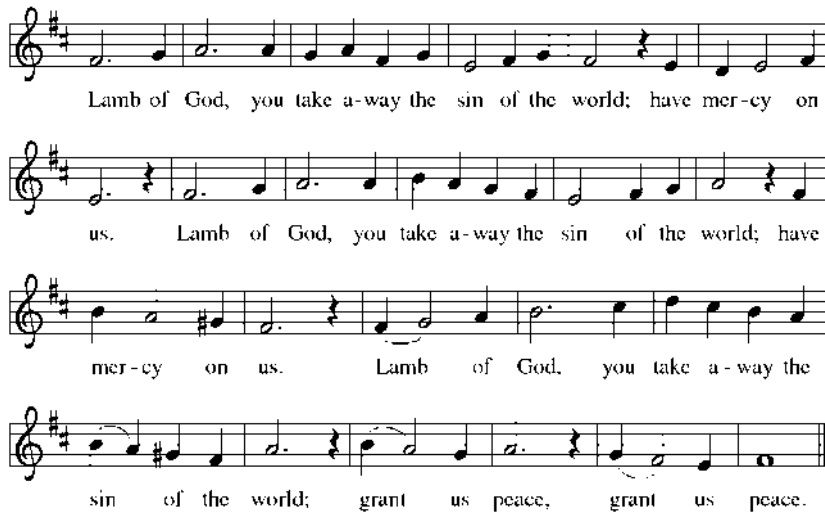
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

PLEASE BE SEATED

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



DISTRIBUTION Hymn #487 "What Feast of Love"

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May 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 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.

BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

SENDING SONG *Our Hymn "Singing Promise on the Way"*

DISMISSAL

We are God's people.

Followers of Jesus Christ.

Gifted by the Spirit.

Go Pray. Go Love. Go Serve. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000850. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Thank you for Serving!

A/V Sound Tech: Art Kotenko

Sacristy Help: Pat Gallo, Christy Burmeister

Saturday:

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Becca Laabs

Assisting Minister: Julie Schmit

Pianist: Willy Mueller

Reader: Lisa Zanin

Sunday:

Lead Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

Assisting Minister: Kevin Larsen

Reader: Sharon Corso

Organist: Deb Black

Soloist: Ariel Gauslow

Communion Assistants: Jackie Larsen, Kay Manderfeld

Greeters: Sharon & Keith Corso

The altar flowers this weekend are given to the Glory of God and Blessings in the New Year!