

**Christmas Day**

**December 25, 2022**

## **We hope you feel welcome here.**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

## **We hope you can participate fully in worship.**

Everything needed to participate in today's worship is found in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) located under the seat in front of you. Worshipers are invited to stand as you are able at the places marked \* and to respond when indicated with bold type. We gently remind you to silence all electronic devices.

Our youngest worshipers and their parents may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the sanctuary or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

Assisted hearing devices and complete-service, large-print bulletins are available from an usher. The blue chairs with arms are reserved for people with mobility limitations. Ushers can remove chairs to place a wheelchair.

**We hope you know Holy Communion is for you.** At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

**We hope you know we pray for you.**

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors; prayer requests made before the service begins will be included in the Prayers of the People.

**+ GATHERING +**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

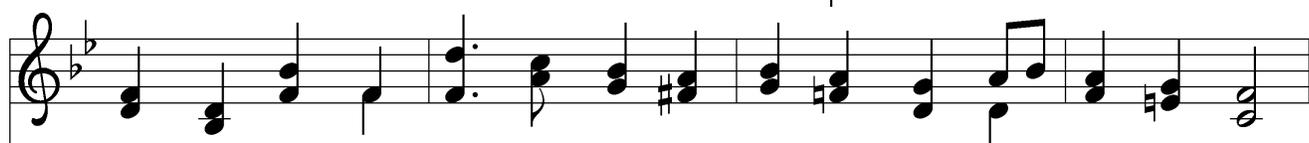
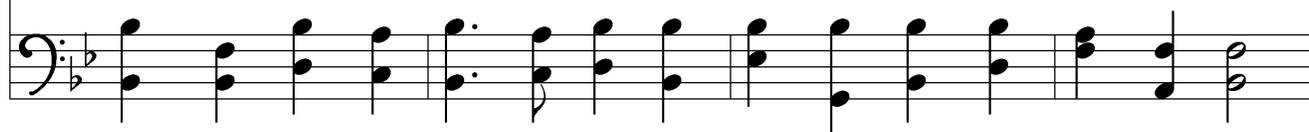
# \*ENTRANCE HYMN

## Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW#275



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## \*GREETING

P: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, the love of Christ that guards our hearts and minds, and the joy and consolation of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## +WORD+

### FIRST READING

Luke 2:1-20 NRSV, emended

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

In that 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  
God 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. But 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, as it had been told them.

**THE GIFT OF THE LITTLEST SHEPHERD**

Jane Yolen

# HYMN

## Go Tell it on The Mountain

ELW#290

*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

## SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of  
Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the

east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

HOME BY ANOTHER WAY

Barbara Brown Taylor

# HYMN

## As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW#302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



THIRD READING      John 1:1-14 NRSV, emended

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, without whom not one thing came into being. What has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

The light was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of human will, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a  
father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

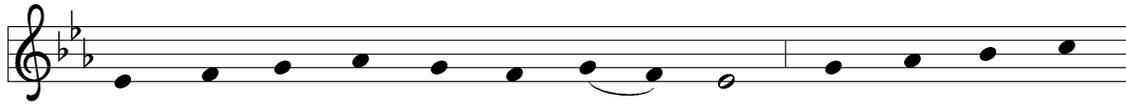
GOD'S HOLY DARKNESS

Sharei Green and Beckah Selnick

\*HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW#295



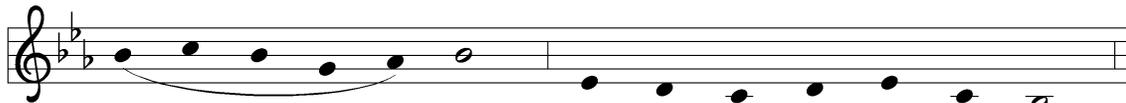
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

## \*NICENE CREED

A: Together, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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 THE CHURCH

A: With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

A: The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church's worship. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: This day dawns with new hope for all living things, and from ocean depths to mountain peaks the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bring heavenly peace to this world and an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give

courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Guard the lives of any in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary and soothe those who are troubled especially Elif, Jan, Caretta, Roger, Paula, Audrey, Deborah, Casey-Marie, Mike, Bob, Andrew, Doug, Yvonne, Jan, Jeff, Evelyn, Margrethe, Jerry, Jack, Helen.  
God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain charities, outreach ministries, and food pantries that give generously to people in need especially Beacon and Wheeler Mission, whose doors are thrown open to shelter the cold today.  
God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time. God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.  
**C: Amen.**

#### \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.*

## OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community** pads. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service. These pads and pencils are sanitized at the end of each service.*

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate by the door or you can also give on our website ([stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org)). St. Thomas collects gifts to support our mission of sharing, living, and celebrating God's grace with all people. We support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners.*

# \*OFFERTORY HYMN

## In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW#294

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

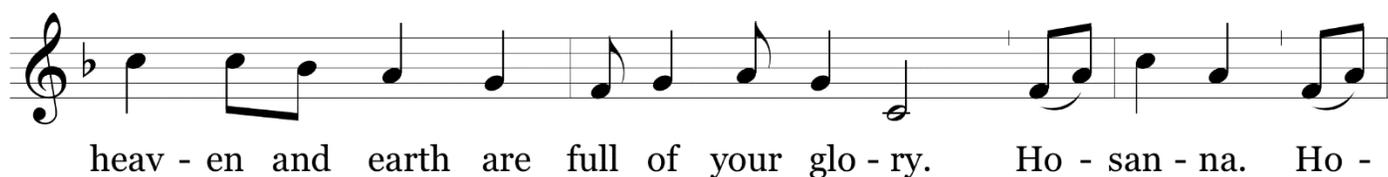
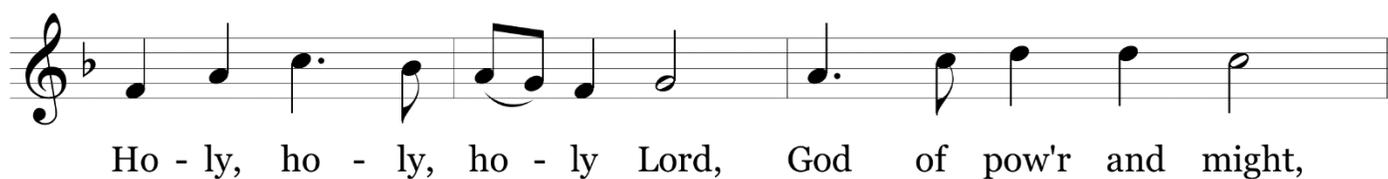
in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace, As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all the earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### + MEAL +



## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

P: He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

P: He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: In the same way 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 people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

P: Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

*Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. German is provided on the next page.*

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on Earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Vater Unser, der Du bist im Himmel.  
Geheiligt werde Dein Name.  
Dein Reich komme,  
Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, also auch  
auf Erden.  
Unser täglich Brot gib uns heute  
und vergib uns unsere Schuld,  
wie wir vergeben unsern Schuldigern.  
Führe uns nicht in Versuchung  
sondern erlöse uns vom Bösen,  
denn Dein ist das Reich und die  
Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit.  
Amen.

#### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table  
of peace.

*We believe that God is our host and that all people are  
welcome to this feast of grace, community, and  
forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of the  
ushers. Hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers are  
offered with pink wine and red grape juice in  
individual cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross  
your arms over your chest.*

# COMMUNION HYMN

## Away in a Manger

ELW#277

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

**\*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen you salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# \*SENDING HYMN

## Joy to the World

ELW#267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
heav'n and na - ture sing,

**\*DISMISSAL**

**A:** Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

\*\*\*

*We depart in peace to continue our worship  
in lives of witness to Christ's love  
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

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## **Announcements**

### **New Years Day**

On **Sunday, January 1 at 9:30 a.m.**, begin the new year with hope and joy. Celebrate that God is with us (and often with us in one another) today and throughout the year to come with fellowship and a potluck brunch. Additionally, please note the “greens” will be taken down following the service, perhaps some during and following brunch. All helping hands are welcomed.

### **Epiphany Retreat**

As a new year dawns, join us for a half-day retreat to begin with presence and intention in your relationships. Our retreat, **Friendship in the Spirit: Rituals and Relationships for Pandemic/Post-Pandemic Loneliness**, will explore patterns of relationship and aloneness in our lives, help us explore and name places in our lives now that are particularly lonely, and offer quiet exploration of the kinds of mutual, vulnerable relationships God created us for. Adults and teens can invite a friend or enjoy the morning alone. We will gather in **Heritage Hall on Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**; a light breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up on the clipboard at the Welcome Desk.

## **Prayers for those with health and safety concerns**

Elif Ogan, Jan Ellis, Caretta Van Ruler, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Audrey Alpers, Deborah O'Brien, Casey-Marie, Mike Ost, Bob Osborn, Andrew Halvorson, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Jan Coulter, Jeff Theis, Evelyn Niemeyer, Margrethe O'Connor, Jerry, Jack King, and Helen Kane.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at [skcolston@aol.com](mailto:skcolston@aol.com) to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Altar care: Mary Sasse

Bread & Wine: Allison Ward

## **9:30 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Mike Witt

Lector: Debbie Witt

Acolyte: Ila Risner

Greeter: Mary Sasse

Council Coordinator: Mike Witt

## **ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Office Hours 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: (812) 332-5252  
[stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org)

*Partners in ministry with*  
**Lutheran Church of  
the Living Waters**  
Cherokee, North Carolina

*Linked with*  
**Sister Parish**  
Iglesia Santo Domingo  
de Guzman, Chichipate  
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,  
Izabal, Guatemala

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**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY  
AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian  
Campus Pastor  
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**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU  
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,  
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**