

# The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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January 4, 2026  
10:45 am

## **The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life**

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey  
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ  
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

**We welcome all who worship with us today.**

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,  
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

**Children are welcome and celebrated!**

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby  
contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship.  
Stop by to borrow a book or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent  
to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **Gathering Music**

All Poor Men and Humble

arr. Warner

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Confession**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**  
**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**  
**We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you.**  
**Turn us to seek your face.**  
**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.**  
**Amen**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares:  
 Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
 and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.  
 May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
 and bless you with the gift of peace.  
**Amen**

## Gathering Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

ELW 553



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,  
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;  
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;  
 joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,  
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-



le-lu-ia. 2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,



glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

## Prayer of the Day

We pray.

**O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star.  
Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives,  
and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Isaiah 60:1-6

Translation: NRSVue

A reading from Isaiah.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their  
nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations  
shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian  
and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

A reading from Ephesians.

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.*

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

**Gospel Matthew 2:1-12**

Translation: NRSVue

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

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.

The gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Cindy Camp

*Please rise in body or spirit.*



1 Bright and glo - rious is the sky, ra - diant are the  
 2 On that ho - ly Christ - mas night through the dark - ness  
 3 Sa - ges from the east a - far, when they saw this  
 4 Him they found in Beth - le - hem, yet he wore no



heav - ens high where the gold - en stars are shin - ing.  
 beamed a light; all the stars a - bove were pal - ing,  
 won - drous star, went to find the king of na - tions  
 di - a - dem; there they saw a maid - en low - ly



All their rays to earth in - clin - ing beck - on us to  
 all their lus - ter slow - ly fail - ing as the won - drous  
 and to of - fer their ob - la - tions to the child, the  
 with an in - fant pure and ho - ly rest - ing in her



heav'n a - bove, beck - on us to heav'n a - bove.  
 star drew nigh, as the won - drous star drew nigh.  
 new - born king, to the child, the new - born king.  
 lov - ing arms, rest - ing in her lov - ing arms.

5 Guided by the star, they found  
 him whose praise the ages sound.  
 We too have a star to guide us,  
 which forever will provide us  
 with the light to find our Lord,  
 with the light to find our Lord.

6 And this star, as bright as day,  
 that will never lead astray  
 with its message so appealing,  
 is the word of God, revealing  
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life,  
 Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

## Prayers of the People

*Invitation to prayer:*

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

*After each petition:*

Light of the world,  
**receive our prayers.**

*Pastor's closing prayer:*

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 the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,  
"Peace be with you."*

*The assembly is seated.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*During the Musical Offering the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated.  
If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the  
tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.*

**Musical Offering**

Brightest and Best  
Spirit Voices

arr. Kirchner

## Offering Prayer

We pray.

As the Magi brought their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child,  
so we offer ourselves and our gifts for the advancement of your kingdom.

**Amen**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## 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, 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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.  
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:

## Sanctus

## Holy, Holy, Holy

## ELW Setting 8

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

## Words of Institution

## Word in Meal

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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**

## Lord's Prayer

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

**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**

## Invitation to the Table

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## Distribution of Communion

### Agnus Dei

### Lamb of God

### ELW Setting 8

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## Communion 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.



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
 3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
 5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
 Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

*Please rise in body or spirit.*



## Prayer after Communion

We 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**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

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

**Amen**

## Sending Hymn

# Arise, Your Light Has Come

ELW 314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sending Music**

Fantasia on "Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern"

Buxtehude

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:



**venmo**

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: [lchsemmaus.org](http://lchsemmaus.org).

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## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor  
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor  
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy  
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music  
Karin Kahler, Director Faith Formation for Children

## **WORSHIP HELPERS**

### **Assisting Minister**

Liz Moessner

### **Reader**

Becky Leiby

### **Communion Assistants**

Jackie Leipert, Sheila Huff

### **Greeter**

Kathy Wimmer

### **Usher**

Victor Schmidt

### **Production/Technology Team**

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Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz, Bill Newill,  
Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,  
Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

### **Altar Care**

Bob Rice, Carolyn Rice, Julie Timmcke, Brenda Brookover, Terri Hinderliter, Cindy Clark,  
Nancy Shoemaker, Jennifer Wetzel