



CHRISTMAS

Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church • Tempe, Arizona

Welcome to worship!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary. A television allows you to see and hear the service.
- **Children's bulletins and worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil. 



Connection card

*During the offering
we ask that you
complete an online
connection card.*

Christmas Eve — December 24, 2025

Christ the Savior is Born: Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Families cherish our Christmas traditions. Year after year, we decorate the tree with the same ornaments, play the same music, bake the same Christmas cookies. Without asking, family members know when they will open presents. If you try to change your family's Christmas traditions, you might be in trouble! When it comes to family Christmases, people generally don't like things to change.

Because our celebration of Christmas has so many unchanging traditions, we might overlook the fact that the birth of Christ the Savior meant for the world the most radical change of all. Would things change for the better?

The angels answer the question. They don't sing "Watch out for impending doom!" They sing "glory" and "peace," praising God with alleluias!

A Festival of Lessons and Carols (3:30, 5:00 p.m.) begins on page 3.

Candlelight Worship (6:30, 8:00 p.m.) begins on page 21.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS



Pre-Service Music

At the direction of the minister, please stand.

Processional Hymn

343 Once in Royal David's City

Stanza 1: boy soloist, st. 2: choir, st. 3-4: all sing

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and

And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re-

Not in that poor, lowly stable with the ox - en

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a

Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his

deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our

stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav-en, set at

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er

cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and

Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren

God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.

low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

on to the place where he is gone.

crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

The Service of Lessons and Carols originates at King's College in Cambridge, England. The service relates the history of prophecy and fulfillment of the Savior's birth through Word and song.

The service traditionally begins with the singing of "Once in Royal David's City," with a boy singing the first stanza and the choir singing stanza 2.

Bidding Prayer

*During our services,
the congregation
speaks the responses
in bold.*

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us – the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of Tempe and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated.

Carol

The choir sings stanzas 1-2. Join them on stanzas 3-4.

352 Joy Has Dawned

arr. Robert Sterling

*Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation –
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love – Jesus born of Mary.*

*Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
as the mighty Prince of life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.*

**Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory.
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story:
gold – a king is born today; incense – God is with us;
myrrh – his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.**

**Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;
reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.**

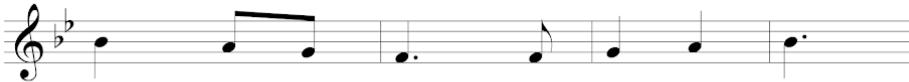
Carol

How Great Our Joy!

Sung as noted:



All: 1. While by my sheep we watched at night.
All: 2. Born is the Child, in man - ger small,
All: 3. There shall the child lie in a stall,
All: 4. Je - sus, the gift from heav'n a - bove



Lo, there ap - peared an an - gel bright:
Whom God has sent to save us all.
This child who shall re - deem us all.
Fills all our hearts with joy and love.



Choir: All: Choir: All:
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy,



Choir: All: Choir: All:
joy! Glo - ry to God who reigns on high! Glo - ry to God who



reigns on high!

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

3:30 p.m. Colton Sallquist

5:00 p.m. Benson Priebe

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The Offspring of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

¹¹God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me – she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Carol

Within the Vale of Eden

All sing:



1. With - in the vale of E - den, a long, long time a - go,
2. But then the ser - pent en-tered and tempt - ed A - dam's wife,
3. Then Eve re-turned to A-dam, her sto - ry to re - late.
4. Through A - dam did we suf - fer and feel the weightof sin,



God placed our fa-ther A - dam, be - cause he loved him so;
he showed her fruit for - bid - den, not from the tree of life.
He fol - lowed her ex - am - ple, for - bid - den fruit he ate.
til Je - sus came to save us, our hap - pi - ness to win.



And God cre - a - ted wo - man to be by A-dam's side.
He prom-ised her the know-ledge to make her wise as God.
Then came the bit - ter know-ledge that man would suf - fer death.
He came as our Re - deem - er to bring e - ter - nal life.



They lived in per - fect plea-sure, and ne - ver tast - ed woe.
She ate the fruit of e - vil and peace was turned to strife.
God turned them from the gar - den, and ex - ile was their fate.
Now Par - a - dise is o - pen, and we may en - ter in.

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

3:30 p.m. Myles Lieske

5:00 p.m. Jay Ohm

*God promises to
faithful Abraham
that in his seed
shall all the
nations of the
earth be blessed.*

¹⁵The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven
¹⁶and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have
done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will bless
you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of
the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take
possession of the city gates of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of
the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

3:30 p.m. Ryan Pufahl
5:00 p.m. Jay Schroeder

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

⁶ For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.
He will be named:

Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace

⁷ There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.
The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

*The coming Savior
will establish an
eternal kingdom of
justice and
righteousness.*

Carol

For unto Us a Child is Born

Jacob Clemens non Papa

For unto us a child is born.

Rejoice upon this happy morn: Emmanuel is his name to be.

He shall redeem and set us free.

In need we pray this joyful day.

O help, we pray, this joyful day.

Come, all ye angels, sing with joy to the little boy.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come, let us sing both high and low,

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2–5a

3:30 p.m. Seth Zimmermann

5:00 p.m. Justin Ohm

The expected Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. ²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³Therefore the LORD will give them up,
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Carol

Gaudete!

14th century Latin carol

*Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria Virgine: Gaudete!
(Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary: rejoice!)*

*Now the time has come at last, bringing joy and gladness;
time foretold by sages past, healing earth's deep sadness.*

*Nature marvels at the sight, earth looks on in wonder:
for the Lord of love and light rends the heav'ns asunder!*

*Christ is born: Emmanuel, hope of ev'ry nation!
Therefore let us sing noel with the whole creation!*

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26–35, 38

3:30 p.m. Chandler Balgeman
5:00 p.m. Lance Marten

²⁶ In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹ Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Carol

Savior of the Nations, Come
arr. David Bridges and Carol Poston

*Savior of the nations, come;
Show yourself the virgin's son.
Marvel, heaven, wonder earth,
That our God chose such a birth.*

*No man's pow'r of mind or blood
But the Spirit of our God
Made the Word of God be flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.*

*Here a maid was found with child,
Virgin pure and undefiled.
In her virtues it was known
God had made her heart his throne.*

*From the manger newborn light
Sends a glory through the night.
Night cannot this light subdue,
Faith keeps springing ever new.*

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

3:30 p.m. Barry Redman
5:00 p.m. Craig Kiecker

*The long-awaited
Christ child was
born in Bethlehem
of Judea, as
foretold by the
prophets.*

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶ And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Carol

Silent Night

arr. Dan Forrest

*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! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King,
"Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born."*

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

3:30 p.m. Rev. Jon Stern

5:00 p.m. Rev. Jon Rossman

⁸ There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

*Angels
proclaimed the
good news to
shepherds, who
went to worship
the Christ child.*

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

All sing all stanzas. Stanza 2 may be sung in 4-part harmony with the choir.

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un -
3. For lo, the days are has - tning on, by proph - ets seen of

old, from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of
furled, and still their heavenly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry
old, when, with the ev - er - cir - cling years, shall come the time fore -

gold: "Peace on the earth, good - will to all, from heaven's all gracie - ous
world; a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend - on hov - ring
told, when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splendors

King"; the world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing,
wing, and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the blessed an - gels sing.
fling, and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Carol

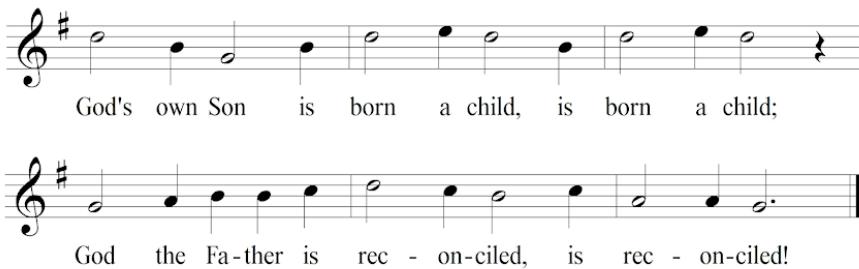
He Whom Shepherds Once Came Praising

Michael Praetorius

*He whom shepherds once came praising,
Awed by heav'nly light ablazing,
Cheered by angel news amazing:
"King of glory, Christ is born!"*

*The glorious angels came today,
Aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,
To shepherds who by moon's bright ray
Did in the field o'er sheep their silent vigil keep.
"Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heav'n resounding,
For you, for you and all the world abounding."*

Refrain – all sing:



God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Fa-ther is rec - on-ciled, is rec - on-ciled!

*Sing with Mary, virgin mother;
Praise her Son, our newborn brother;
Angel ranks, lead one another,
Hailing him in holy joy!*

*Then sang the angels this refrain:
"To God on high alone give praise and glory,
And peace on earth again shall reign.
Let all on earth with gladness heed this story
And rejoice in his good will."
The Savior came in meekness
For you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.*

Refrain

To our king, God ever reigning,
Yet of Mary manhood gaining,
Heav'nly gifts for us obtaining,
Raise your hymns of homage high!

The wond'ring shepherds said:
"Behold! Let us go with all good speed to Bethlehem
To see this thing the Lord has told;
The sheep are safe; he will indeed take care of them."
There they found the wonder child, in lowly swaddling clothes lying,
Yet all the world with his free grace supplying.

Refrain

Please stand.

Eighth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Pastor Jon Buchholz

*St. John expounds
the great mystery
of the incarnation.*

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Be seated.

Carol

When Christmas Morn is Dawning

arr. Kyle Pederson

*When Christmas morn is dawning, in faith help me to see
the child there in the manger, a mirror, God, of thee;
the child there in the manger, a mirror, God, of thee.*

*A gift of grace and mercy, of innocence and truth:
the child there in the manger is making all things new;
the child there in the manger is making all things new.*

*Oh, keep my gaze upon thee and may I ne'er forget
that though the world is trembling Emmanuel lives yet;
though the world is trembling Emmanuel lives yet.*

*So come this Christmas morning, when I first awake,
draw my heart to you, Lord, and with each breath I take,
fill my soul with wonder at the manger where you lay.
Oh, make my heart the manger, the manger where you lay.*

Carol

354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

All sing:

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
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, to earth he comes!
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Offering

Musical Offering

Please stand.

Prayer

In the fullness of time when all was still, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill you with the joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Remain standing for the closing hymn.

Carol

350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



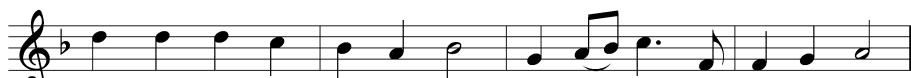
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



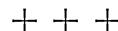
with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Be seated.



*We gather for festival worship with Holy Communion tomorrow
on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.*

*We worship next Sunday morning, December 28:
Regular worship on Sunday is at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.*

*Our final worship services of the year will be on New Year's Eve, December 31.
The confessional service with Holy Communion will be at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.*

Serving at Worship

Minister	Pastor Jon Buchholz
Lectors	noted in the service
Organ	Kurt Rosenbaum
Accompanists	Kris Pufahl, Heidi Zimmerman
Choir	Emmanuel adult choir
Boy solo	Cameron Sulit
Soloists	Natalie Bode, Leia Hahnke, Lucy Hahnke, Sarah Kern
Director	Kevin Bode
Instrumentalists	Norm Andrews, Nathan Crabtree, Kali Gonzalez, Eli Gruman, Sean Lieske, <i>brass</i> Elizabeth Bird, Kali Gonzalez, Tim Kriewall, Mark Schuelein, Heidi Zimmerman, <i>strings</i> Norm Andrews, <i>djembe</i> Kris Pufahl, <i>clarinet</i>
Acolyte	Colton Sallquist (3:30 p.m.)
Video streamer and slides	Chris Wempner, Lauren Sallquist
Video captions	Chris Wempner
Sound	Wes Wightman

Acknowledgments

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship.

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“Silent Night” Dan Forrest, © 2019 Beckenhorst Publishing.

“When Christmas Morn is Dawning” Kyle Pederson, © 2022 Birnamwood Publications.

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Please use your pre-service time for quiet reflection and meditation.



Pre-Service Music

Lighting of candles

The minister will light his candle from the Christ candle. The minister will walk down the center aisle and light the candle of the first person in each pew. These will pass the flame along to others in the pew. When passing the flame, tip the unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle. Always keep the lit candle upright!

A limited number of electric candles are available for children under 8 years of age.

At the direction of the minister, please stand.

Opening Hymn

333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Invocation and psalm for Christmas

Psalm 97

*During our services,
the congregation
speaks the responses
in bold.*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The LORD reigns. Let the earth celebrate.

Let the many islands and coastlands rejoice.

Clouds and deep darkness surround him.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

The mountains melt like wax in the presence of the LORD,
in the presence of the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.

Zion hears and rejoices,

**and the daughters of Judah celebrate because of your judgments,
O LORD.**

For you, O LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.

You are raised up far above all gods.

Let those who love the LORD hate evil.

He guards the lives of his favored ones.

Light rises for the righteous

and joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,

and give thanks as you remember his holiness.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated. As you extinguish your candle, use caution so that hot wax does not touch you or anyone around you.

Sung Response

349 A Great and Mighty Wonder

A great and mighty wonder, a glorious mystery:
a virgin bears an infant who veils his deity.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

The Word becomes incarnate and yet remains on high,
and cherubim sing anthems to shepherds from the sky.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³ Therefore the LORD will give them up,

until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people
of Israel.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the
earth.

⁵ This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*The expected
Savior will be born
in the little town of
Bethlehem.*

Sung Response

349 A Great and Mighty Wonder

Since all he comes to ransom, by all be he adored,
the infant born in Bethl'em, the Savior and the Lord.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

*God has brought
us the gift of
salvation in Christ.
Our response is to
thank and praise
him with our lips
and our lives.*

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹² It trains us to reject ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope, that is, the glorious appearance of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He gave himself for us, to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are his own chosen people, eager to do good works.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sung Response

349 A Great and Mighty Wonder

All idols then shall perish and Satan's lying cease,
and Christ shall raise his scepter, decreeing endless peace.

Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth!"

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

*Jesus' birth is not a
fable or legend but
an account that
took place in
history. His birth
was miraculously
announced by
angels and shared
by humble
shepherds.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶ And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling

cloths and lying in a manger.”¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child.¹⁸ And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

This is the Gospel of our Lord!

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn

340 Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

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 take us to heaven to live with you there.

Sermon

Titus 2:11-14

Do you see what I see?

Hymn

342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

O Jesus Christ, your manger is
my paradise at which I am reclining.
For there, O Lord, we find the Word made flesh for us –
your grace is brightly shining.

He whom the sea and wind obey
comes down to serve the sinner in great meekness.
Now God's own Son with us is one
and joins us and our children in our weakness.

Dear Christian friend, on him depend;
be of good cheer and let no sorrow move you.
For God's own Child in mercy mild joins you to him –
how greatly God must love you!

Ponder again what glory then
the Lord will give you for your earthly sadness.
The angel host can never boast
of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

The world may hold her wealth and gold;
but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true treasure.
To him hold fast until at last a crown is yours
and honor in full measure.

Offering of thanks

Lighting of candles

The minister will light his candle from the Christ candle. The ushers will light their candles, and then they will light the candle of the first person in each row. When passing the flame, tip the unlit candle into the flame of the lit candle. Always keep the lit candle upright.

Musical Offering

Please stand.

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn

337 Silent Night, Holy Night

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!

**Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'ly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!**

Silent night, holy night!

**Son of God, loves pure light radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

Prayer

In the fullness of time when all was still, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Extinguishing of Candles

As you extinguish your candle, use caution so that hot wax does not touch you or anyone around you.

Be seated.

Closing Hymn

363 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Now sing we, now rejoice, now raise to heaven our voice;
he from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies;
not so brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!

Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;
through thy grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!

Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.
Death was reigning o'er us through sin and vanity
till he opened for us a bright eternity.
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heavenly ground,
where the angels singing with all his saints unite,
sweetest praises bringing in heavenly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

+

*We gather for festival worship with Holy Communion tomorrow
on Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.*

*We worship on Sunday morning, December 28:
Regular worship on Sunday is at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.*

*Our final worship services of the year will be on New Year's Eve, December 31.
The confessional service with Holy Communion will be at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.*

Serving at Worship

Minister

Pastor Gary Pufahl

Organ

Kevin Bode

Instrumentalists

Kali Gonzalez, *horn and violin*

Autumn Bode, *flute*

Video streamer and slides

Cathy Wightman, Lucas Hahnke

Video captions

Jeremy Burmeister

Sound

Wes Wightman

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Lois Henderson – Home recovering from illness.
- Cameron Lee – At Dignity Rehab in Chandler.
- Seth Meyer – Back home in Arizona to continue his accident recovery.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatment for cancer.
- Much-needed rain for the state of Arizona.

Ushers

3:30 p.m.	Daniel Janes, Eric Sallquist, Jacob Sallquist, Doug Thompson
5:00 p.m.	Pastor Brad Bode, Dave Glodowski, Mojo Krup
6:30 p.m.	Mojo Krup
8:00 p.m.	Mojo Krup



Emmanuel usher sign-up.

This week at Emmanuel

December 22 – January 2

ELS Christmas Break

No school

Wednesday

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve Candlelight services
Adult choir in the MEC

3:30 and 5:00 p.m.
6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
No practice

Thursday

Christmas Day
Thursday Bible study at Denny's
Christmas Day worship service
God's Ways Bible study
Bible Basics

Church office closed
No class
9:00 a.m.
No class
No class

Saturday

Christian memorial service for Alexis Naumann

10:00 a.m.

with luncheon to follow

Sunday, December 28

Worship services
Bible study, Sunday school, teen study
Public School Catechism

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
No classes
No class

Looking ahead

December 31	New Year's Eve	
	Wednesday Bible study	No class
	New Year's Eve worship service	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Adult choir	No practice
January 1	New Year's Day	Church office closed
	Thursday Bible study	No class
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	No class
	Bible Basics in the MEC	No class
January 4	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Presentation: Jason Jonker with Resilient Ministry	9:15 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	No class
January 5	ELS Christmas Break ends	School resumes
January 6	Festival of the Epiphany candlelight service	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.
January 7	Wednesday Bible study in the MEC	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
January 8	Thursday Bible study at Denny's	6:00 a.m.
		<i>21st Century Lessons from the Life of Abraham</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Dan Pautz at</i>
		<i>Denny's (Broadway and Priest in Tempe)</i>
	God's Ways Bible study in the MEC	6:00 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Bible Basics begins in the MEC	6:30 p.m.
		<i>Led by Pastor Jon Buchholz</i>
January 9	Chapel	8:30 a.m.
	ELS early release	1:50 p.m.
January 11	Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
	In-person Bible study, Sunday school, teen study	No classes
	Pancake breakfast in the MEC	9:15-10:30 a.m.
	Public School Catechism	12:00-1:30 p.m.
January 14	Wednesday Bible study	8:30 a.m.
		<i>Pastoral Epistles</i>
		<i>Led by Pastor Gary Pufahl</i>
	Adult choir in the MEC	6:30 p.m.

Notes and News



Connection cards

The connection cards have a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to elctempe.org/connect, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Connection card

During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

Thank you to all who served!

During the Advent and Christmas seasons we have been blessed by the spiritual gifts of so many Christians who used their talents to God's glory. We thank the members of the adult and youth choirs, musicians, other vocalists, acolytes, lectors, ushers, altar guild servers, those who contributed flowers, and all who helped to make our worship services edifying. Thank you for your service!

Thank you!

The pastors, teachers, and all the staff at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School thank you for your cards, your gifts, your words of encouragement, your prayers and all the Christian love you show in so many ways throughout the year. We are blessed to serve you in Jesus' name!

Christian memorial service for Alexis Naumann

Alexis Naumann was called to heaven on Friday, December 12, 2025. A memorial service will be held here at Emmanuel this Saturday, December 27, at 10:00 a.m., with a luncheon in the MEC following the service. We ask the Lord to comfort the Naumann family during this time of loss, even as we thank the Lord for the eternal victory he has given to Alexis.

New Year's celebration at Emmanuel

We will give thanks to the Lord for another year of his grace at our New Year's Eve worship with Holy Communion:

- Wednesday, December 31, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Our celebration of the Christmas season culminates with our special worship for the **Festival of the Epiphany** at a special candlelight service.

- Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Epiphany candlelight

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, we will celebrate the Festival of Epiphany. Our Epiphany worship at 6:30 p.m. will be a special candlelight service. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special evening service, as we celebrate the light of our Savior that shines in the world and shines in our hearts.



About Us

Emmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each member** actively participating in our ministry.

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

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