

Welcome



Joy



Lutheran Church of the Ascension
460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, IL 60093
www.ascension-church.org

**Lessons and Carols for the First Sunday of Christmas
Lutheran Church of the Ascension
Northfield Community Church
St. James the Less Episcopal Church
Northfield, Illinois
January 1, 2023**

Prelude

Gathering

Dialogue

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
By day and night, he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty,
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Gathering Song

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. **Amen.**

Sermon

Lessons and Carols

First Reading

Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

Each reading concludes: Word of God. Word of Life.

The assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

ELW 284

Second Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

Third Reading

Luke 1:26–35, 38

Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265

Fourth Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

Carol

O come, O come, Emmanuel
Verses 1-4

ELW 257

Fifth Reading

Luke 2:8–20

Carol

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

Sixth Reading

Matthew 2:1–11

Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294

Seventh Reading

John 1:1–14

Carol

Of the Father's Love Begotten
(verses 1, 3, 5)

ELW 295

Prayers of Intercession

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.

Each petition ends:

God of grace,

The assembly responds:

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Worshippers exchange a sign of peace

Meal

Offering Prayer

Generous God, you have given us life, this community,
and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace.
Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts
to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dialogue

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.

Proper Preface

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.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
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:

Holy, Holy

From Heaven Above Verses 1, 13, 14

ELW 268



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your

Insert additional stanzas as desired.

12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
be and from all sin will set you free."

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Table Prayer

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, 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.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

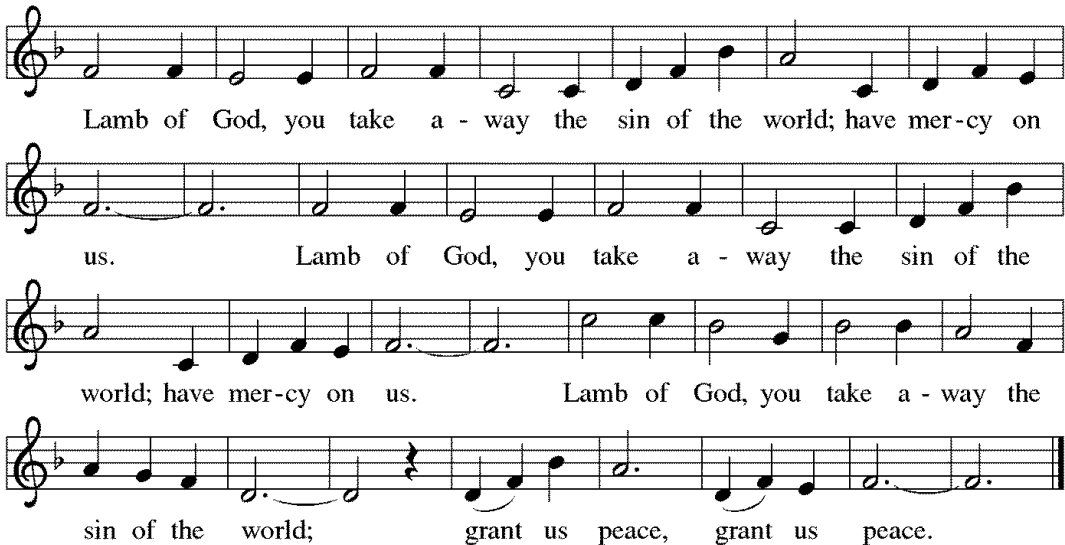
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation

Love has come: God's love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

Lamb of God



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

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.

Communion Song *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, F. Bock*

Distribution

Communion will be served using gluten-free wafers and a pouring chalice containing non-alcoholic wine. You may retrieve an individual communion glass at the head of the aisle. Please place your used communion glass gently in the receptacle after communing. Those who prefer not to come forward for communion, may use a pre-packaged communion chalice, available from the usher.

Sending

Prayer after Communion

Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life. **Amen.**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength. **Amen.**

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world. **Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

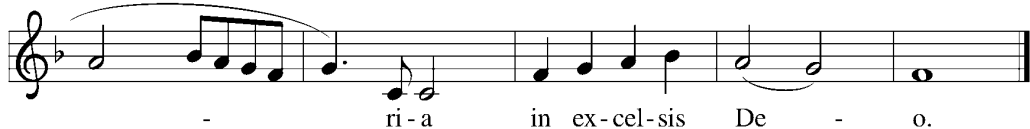
ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Please join us for a festive reception following worship.
 Blessed New Year to our shared ministry!*

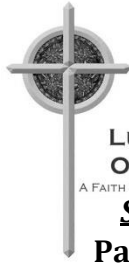
Worship Leaders—First Sunday of Christmas

Presider	Rev. JoAnn Post, Ascension
Assisting Minister	Rev. Ronda Bower, Northfield Community
Musicians	Josh Langhoff, Director of Music Ministries, St. James the Less Mischa Zupko, Director of Music, Ascension Minkyoo Shin, Director of Music, Ascension
Reader	Gail Price, Ascension Simon Babbs, St. James the Less Janet Jesse, Northfield Community
Communion Servers	Gail Price, Ascension Colleen Schipfer, St. James the Less
Usher	Tom Novak, Ascension Cory Schipfer, St. James the Less
Streaming Host	Ted Meltzer
Altar Guild	Jan Funk
Coffee Hour Host	Gail and Charlie Price

*Pastor Duayne Meyer, Northfield Community Church,
is away this weekend.*

*Interim Rector Daphne Cody's service at St. James the Less
has concluded. The congregation is in a search process for a new rector.*

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LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION
A FAITH COMMUNITY ON CHICAGO'S NORTH SHORE

Staff Directory

Pastor JoAnn Post

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*A copy of Pastor Post's sermon is available on
Ascension's website under the "communications" tab*

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Guitarist

Chris Forte

Sunday School Coordinator

Kate Berlin

kate@ascension-church.org

Nursery

Remy Peterson

Building Sexton

Richard Short

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in person;
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. remote. Remote on Friday.

Pastor JoAnn Post is out of the office on Mondays.