

Sunday, December 28, 2025

1st Sunday of Christmas



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Fellowship
Faith Formation 5:30 PM Wednesdays

Pastor Gary Grinvalds

Organist: Alice Meints or Sandy Eltiste

Introduction to the day

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

*Please Stand
Congregational responses in **bold** print

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**

Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

The Bells of Christmas



Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dile was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - sc's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
For in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked,

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You set free those who are bound.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You provide for our every need.

Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.

We rejoice and bless your name forever.

You bless your people with peace.

We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

For in your wisdom you have formed us.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
 3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
 4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
 kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
 to us all your grace ac - cord; true
 all your saints, your glo - rious name; in faith and love to
 par - a - disc our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may - find.
 sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
 us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
 songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spach, 1845-1925, alt.
 Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

Read Responsively

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,

¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS SERMON

*GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

Glory to you, O Lord.

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 296

What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

*APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

OFFERING OFFERTORY



Music notation for the Offertory hymn 'Create in me a clean heart, O God'. The music is in G major, common time. The lyrics are as follows:

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres- ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

***THE PRAYERS**

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

***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.

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 290

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

A musical score for 'The Star-Spangled Banner' in G clef, common time, and 2/4 time. The score consists of two staves of 16 measures each. The first staff begins with a half note, followed by a quarter note, a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note. The second staff begins with a half note, followed by a quarter note, a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note, and a eighth note followed by a sixteenth note.

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the mount - ain that Je - sus Christ is born!

A musical staff in treble clef, F# key signature, and common time. The staff consists of eight measures. The first measure has a quarter note. The second measure has a quarter note. The third measure has a quarter note. The fourth measure has a quarter note. The fifth measure has a half note. The sixth measure has a quarter note. The seventh measure has a quarter note. The eighth measure has a half note.

1 While sheep-herds kept their watch-ing
2 The sheep-herds feared and trem-bled
3 Down in a lone-ly man-ger
o'er si-lent flocks by night,
when, lo, a-bove the earth
the hum-ble Christ was born;

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

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Condolences to Dell & Margaret Michelis, Heather, Isabel & Emily Penner, Dana & Jim Dorn & family, Dyan & Jason Allington & family on the passing of Gordon Michaelis.

Thank you to the LYF for caroling last Sunday. It was enjoyed by many of us.

The Annual meeting will be Sunday, February 1, 2025 immediately following the church service. Please submit all committee reports for the annual report to Pam by Sunday, January 18.

We will have 2 vacancies on the Church Council next year. If you would consider being on the council or know someone else who might, please let a current council member know. Thanks.

Please also consider attending the 2026 Synod Assembly as a voting member representing your congregation. All confirmed members are eligible to attend!!! We may send 2, which will be identified at the Annual Meeting in January.

Upcoming Community coffees are as follows:
January 2—Wymore Library
January 9—Wymore American Legion
January 16—Our Savior's Lutheran Church
January 23—St. Mary's Catholic Church
January 30—Western National Bank

Remembered in Our Prayers:

Kent Hohensee Kathleen Remmers Kai Spann

Pastor Gary: Phone: (402) 658-2253
Email: garygrinvalds@gmail.com

If you wish to have Pastor visit you, please contact him to set up a time.

Your Council leaders are:

President: Darla Acton (402) 239-6236

Vice President: Darin Frerichs (402) 239-6471

Secretary: Erin Saathoff (402) 239-9117

At Large: Roger Henrichs (402) 239-7740

 Chavonn Mailahn (308) 214-0039

 Josh Schmidt (402) 520-0950

Church Account Balance: 11/30/2025: \$58,608.39

Church Offerings: 12/07/2025: \$ 1,472.00

 12/14/2025: \$ 693.00

Attendance 12/21/2025: 46

 12/24/2025: 123

December Birthdays:

26 – Dalton Dorn

26 – Brent Maxson

28 – Darin Frerichs

30 – Joann Wieden

Please have any announcements for the bulletin to Pam by Wednesday noon each week. You may text or call her at (402) 239-2715 or send an email to the church at oursaviorslutheranwymore@gmail.com. Thank you.