

The Nativity of Our Lord
Word & Eucharist by Candlelight
December 24, 2025 | 7:00 pm
Online & Onsite



God Loves. We Love.
Everyone!
Dios Ama. Amamos.
Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705
info@felcaustin.org
512.478.1933 church

Everyone is welcome. This means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our adoration, define our identity, and are formed and transformed as the people of God. As we are gathered together, we receive the Word of God, give thanks, and are sent to be living, active images of divine love.

FELC is committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. For more on our welcome and life, visit www.felcaustin.org.

As we gather, we acknowledge the presence of God's people living on this land long before European conquest. These lands and waters have sustained the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Jumanos, Lipan Apache, Sana, Tonkawa, and other indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Gathering today to worship on ancestral homelands, we acknowledge and honor our indigenous sisters, siblings, and brothers who continue to care for the land and water and call this land home.

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with an usher for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on our wood pews, are available from an usher.

As we gather tonight, you are invited to have an open heart and mind, this bulletin to guide you, and an individual candle to light near the conclusion of the liturgy.

Gathering music begins at 6:45 pm. Choral anthems, carols, and instrumental music are offered.

The assembly remains seated.

Gathering Music

Best of All Rooms

Text: Robert Herrick (1591-1674); Music: Douglas E. Wagner

Christ, He requires still, where e're He comes, To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms,
Give Him the choice; Grant Him the nobler part, The best of all the heart.

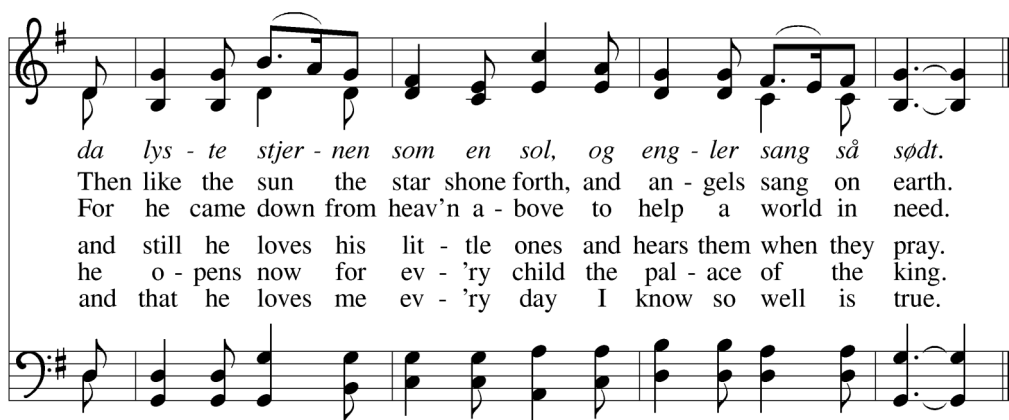
I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Text: Marie Wexelsen (1883-1911)

Music: Jeg Er Sa Glad, Peder Knudsen (1819-1863)



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;
 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.
 Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
 he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
 and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

O Come, Little Children

Johann A. P. Schulz (1794)

O come, little children, O come one and all
to Bethlehem's stable, in Bethlehem's stall
And see with rejoicing this glorious sight,
Our Father in heaven has sent us this night

O, see in the manger, in hallowed light
A star throws its beam on this holiest sight.
In clean swaddling clothes lies the heavenly Child,
More lovely than angels, this Baby so mild.

O, there lies the Christ Child, on hay and on straw;
The shepherds are kneeling before Him with awe.
And Mary and Joseph smile on Him with love,
While angels are singing sweet songs from above.

A Virgin Unspotted

William Billings (1746-100)

A Virgin unspotted, the prophet foretold,
Should bring forth a Savior, which now we behold.
To be our Redeemer from death, hell and sin,
Which Adam's transgression had wrapped us in.

Then, let us be merry, put sorrow away,
Our Savior, Christ Jesus, was born on this day.

God sent down an angel from heaven so high,
To certain poor shepherd in fields as they lie,
And made them no longer in sorrow to stay,
Because that our Savior was born on this day.

Then, presently after, the shepherds did spy
A number of angels that stood in the sky;
They joyfully taled and sweetly did sing
"To God be all glory, our Heavenly King!"

To teach us humility all this was done,
To learn us from hence haughty pride for to shun.
The manger his cradle who came from above,
The great God of mercy, of peace and of love.

Lo, How a Rose Is Blooming

German carol (15th cent.); tr. Theodore Baker(1851-1934), st. 1

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

The singing bowls sound.

The assembly may stand, as willing and able. We face the cross in procession.

Carol at the Procession

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text/Music: J. F. Wade (1711-1786)

Adeste Fideles

- 1 **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:
Refrain
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 2 **The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,**
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
- 3 **Child for us sinners poor and in a manger,**
We would embrace thee with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*
- 4 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest: *Refrain*

Confession & Forgiveness of Sin

Blessed be the One, Holy, ✠ and Living God.

Blessed be God forever! Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us call to mind our sin and prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A time of silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
In your great mercy, forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and live in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

As tender as a loving parent to a child, so deep is God's compassion for you.
As boundless as heaven is from earth, so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west, ✠ so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life in Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever! Amen.

Carol of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High

Text: French carol (1864) MUSIC: GLORIA, FRENCH (1902)

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo!

2 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo!

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Living God, on this holy night we gather—
to gaze with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to be with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy:
to us a Savior is born. Glory and praise to you forever! **Amen!**

The assembly is seated.

Welcome to Worship & Community

If this is one of your first times with First English, please use this QR code.
We are grateful for the opportunity to connect more.





God speaks in scripture, preaching, song, silence, prayer, and one another.

Carol

Sing This Blessed Morn

Bishop Christopher Wordsworth (1862)

Sing, O sing, this blessed morn,
Unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given,
God Himself comes down from heaven.
Sing, O sing, this blessed morn,
Jesus Christ today is born.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

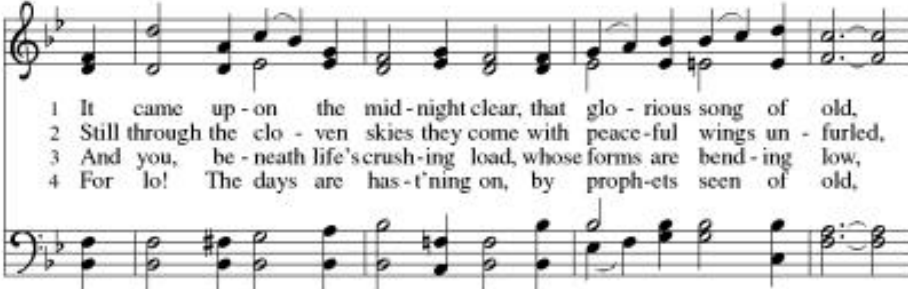
New Revised Standard Version

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

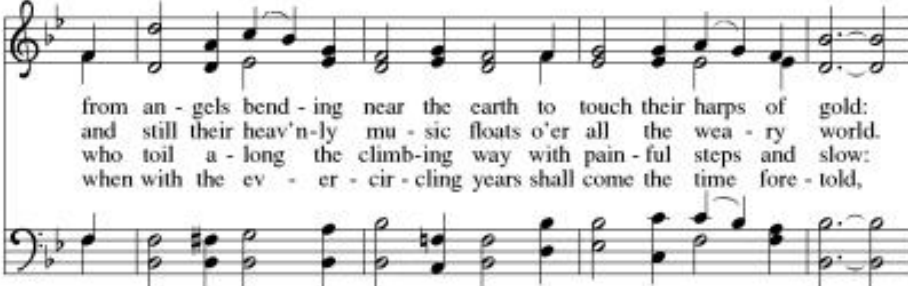
Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

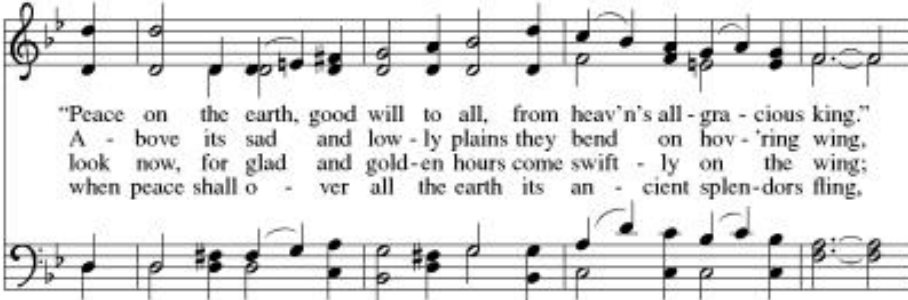
The assembly may be seated to sing the response.



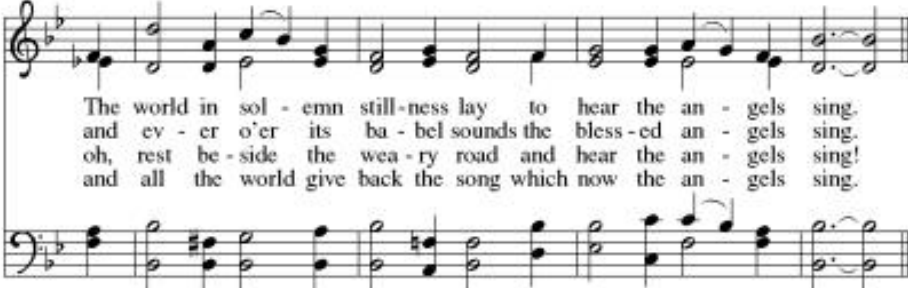
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876
 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

Faith of A Child *Children and families are invited to gather near the baptismal font.*

Prayer: Thank you, God, for your beautiful world, for Jesus' love,
for church friends and family, and for making me, me. Amen.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome Christ in the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation in Procession

Alleluia



Verse: I bring you good news of great joy for¹ all the people: *
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messi-¹ ah, the Lord. Luke 2:10-11; Plainsong VI

The assembly repeats the Alleluias.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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 see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and singing, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Response Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley (1739)/Felix Mendelssohn (1830)

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn king;
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled.”
 Joyful, all you nations, rise;
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with angelic hosts proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn king!”

3 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace!
 Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Ris’n with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise each child of earth,
 born to give us second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn king!”

2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a virgin’s womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
 Hail, incarnate deity!
 Pleased as God with us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn king!”

Sermon

The assembly remains seated to sing the carol.

Carol

Love Has Come

Ken Bible (b. 1950); *Un Flambeau*, French (1856)



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Prayers of Intercession

Intercession response: God of grace, hear our prayer.

The assembly may stand.

Sharing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

The exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice. Gentle signs of reconciliation and love renew and build relationships prior to coming to Christ's meal for Eucharist.

✝MEAL✝

God feeds and blesses us with the real presence of the risen Christ.

Welcome to Communion & Offering

We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. God welcomes our generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

Offering Music

Nativity Carol

Text/Music: John Rutter (b. 1940)

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago.
Born 'neath light of star, He who loved us so.
Far away, silent he lay born today, your homage pay:
For Christ is born for aye born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair tender her lullaby,
Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills,
Worship this babe so rare, hearts with his warmth he fills.

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow.
Innocent dreaming babe make me thy love to know.

The assembly may stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and the meal is prepared.

Offering Carol

What Child is This?

Text: William Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Greensleeves, English tune (16th c.)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

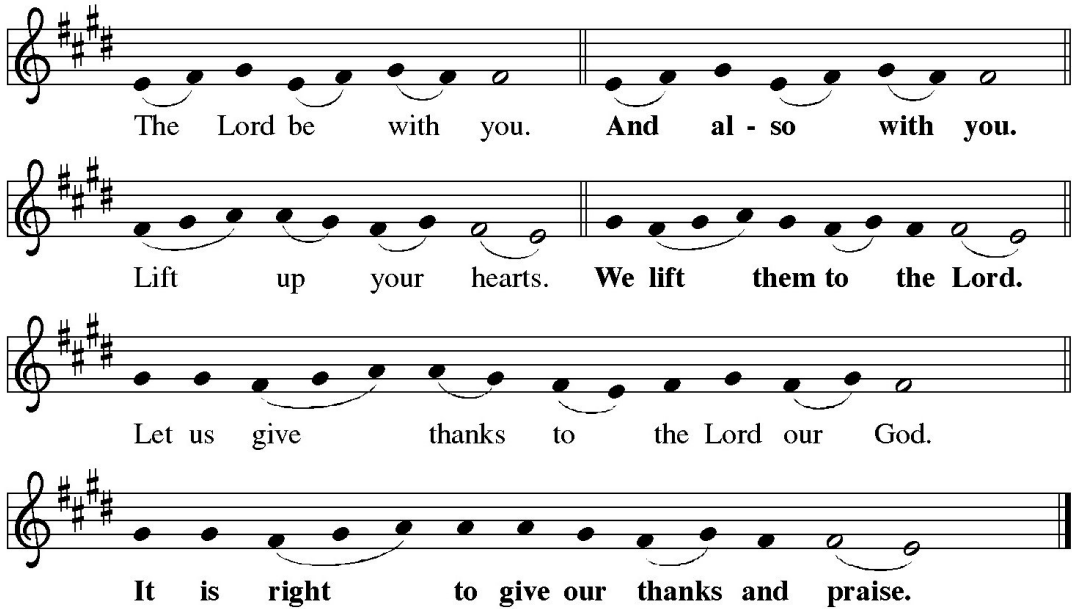
2 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh:
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Offering Prayer

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus who brings your love and grace.
As you have blessed us with many gifts, may each life be a blessing.
Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy and Wondrous God, you created space and time, . . .
a world of love and justice may flourish.

In patient time you revealed . . . so caring community would grow.

In good time you sent Jesus . . . and new life to all.

That night in which Jesus was at table . . . Do this for the remembrance of me.

Living with Christ in the gift of the past, the present, and the future,
we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Christ of all time, be our companion on the way as we live in faith, hope, and love.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our time.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Spirit of every moment, bless this and every table, and empower us to be your love in the world, as we humbly share ourselves through words and acts of courage and hope.

Come, Holy Spirit, into this moment.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and Wondrous God, with people of every generation we give you all the praise that we can utter, through Christ, ✠ in the Spirit, with all creation, in this eternal now.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to follow your Son as we 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.

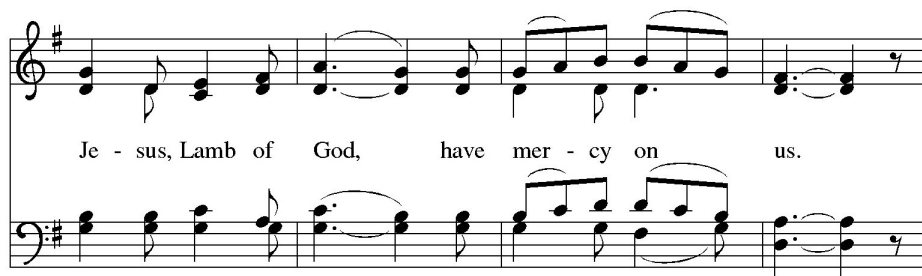
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

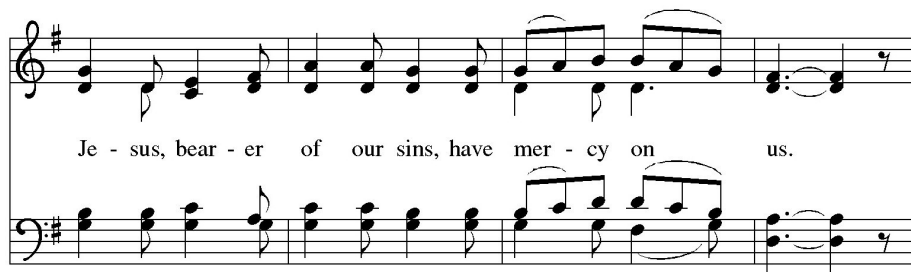
The word is made flesh and dwells among us.

O come, let us adore him.

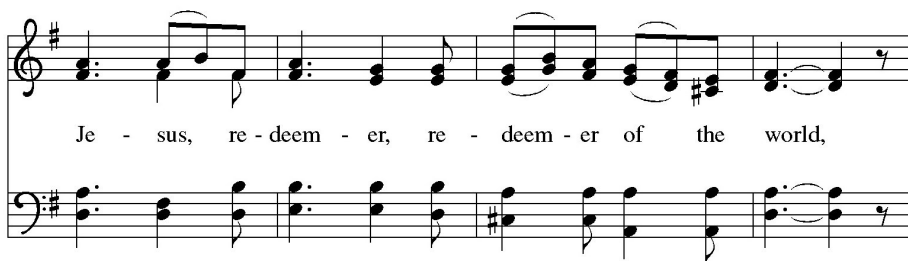
The assembly may be seated.



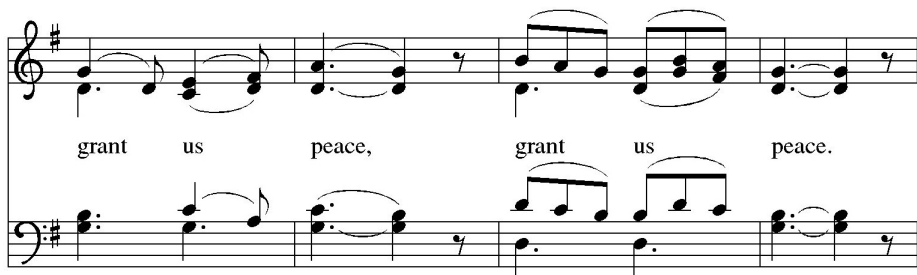
Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion & Blessing

God, in Christ, fully welcomes people of every age to this Meal, which is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

For those participating onsite, ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand for you to eat, then proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/ grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station for a prayer of blessing. Return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in prayer, meditation, and music. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

As you pass the baptismal font at any time you may dip your hand in the water and make the sign of the cross. This ancient body prayer reminds us of baptism into the risen Christ. You may touch your hand to your forehead, then to your chest, ✠ then from one shoulder to the other shoulder.

Communion Carols

Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone (1928-2020)

Another Christmas Over the Rhine band: Linford Detweiler, Karin Bergquist, Ric Hordinski, Brian Kelley

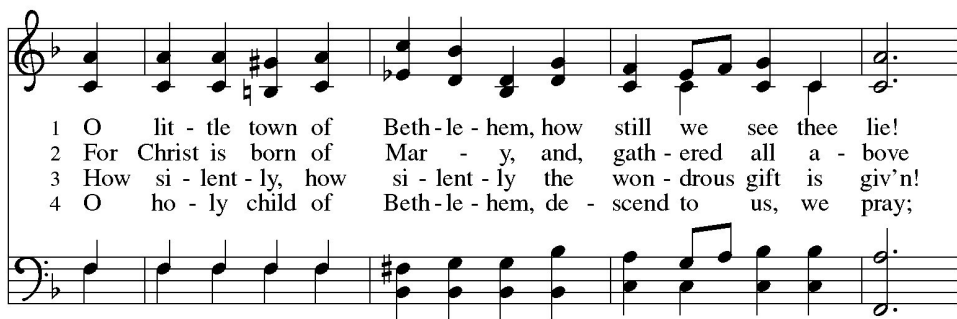
Another Christmas is drifting in softly like the ghost of my innocence lost.
And the tree in the corner burns brightly I turned all the other lights off.
I think back on my life in this stillness. I consider the days of my youth,
And the moments I find myself willing to surrender and just tell the truth.

'Cause I've committed every sin and each one leaves a different scar,
It's just the world I'm livin' in and I could use a guiding star.
I hope that I can still believe the Christ child holds a gift for me,
Am I able to receive peace on earth this Christmas.

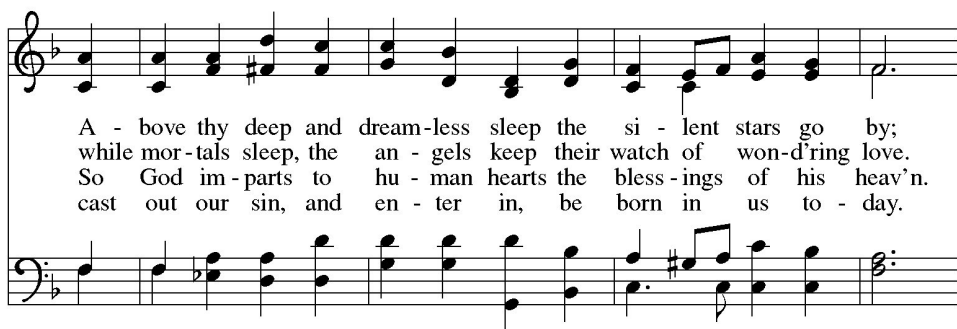
This old world so sweet and so bitter, seeds of violence we humans have sown.
And these weapons we still love to handle may our children have strength to let go.
When we look at the stars after midnight sparkling rumors of redemption at play,
Can we still hear the echoes of angels who were singing that first Christmas day?

Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic hosts proclaim peace on earth this Christmas.

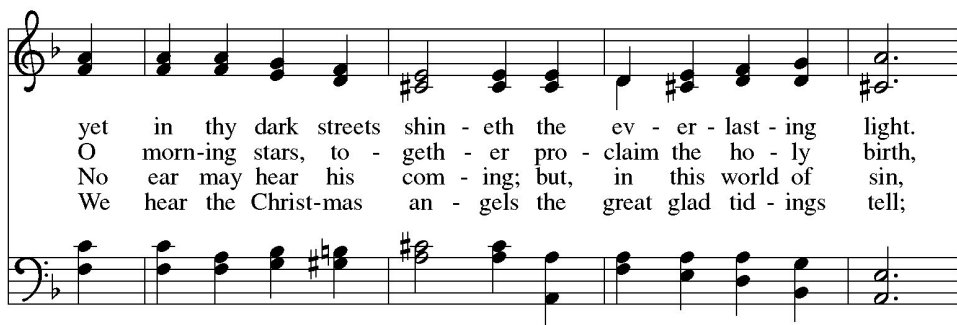
O Little Town of Bethlehem



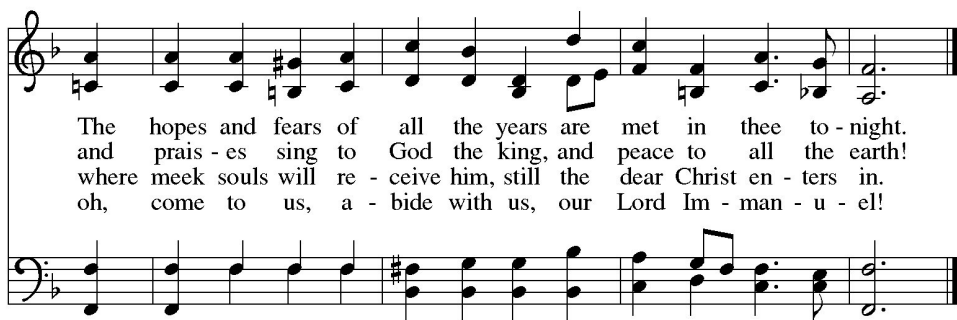
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

The assembly remains seated as we offer our thanks.

Prayer after Communion

God of love, thank you for feeding and blessing us for our journey with you and one another. As you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy: Christ, the Savior, is born, who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

✠SENDING✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission and service with the world.

The assembly stands to light individual candles and sing the carols.

As you pass the light, tip the unlit candle.

Candlelight Carols

Away in a Manger

Text: North American; Music: James Murray (1841-1905)



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



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.


Silent Night

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1849); Music: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

We sing first in German. Then we sing all three stanzas in English.



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Prayer of Light

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of your Light. Grant that we may live in Jesus' presence now, and in the last day, live in the fullness of his glory; who lives and reigns, now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Courage

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through things unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God's Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the persistence of Mary, the humility of Joseph, the peace of Christ, the indwelling of the Spirit, ✠ and the blessing of God, remain with you, and those you love, serve, and resist, this night and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal to Mission

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Silent Night Arr. by Gary Lanier

✠Our Worship Has Ended. Our Service Begins✠

Individual candles may be extinguished and deposited in boxes near the entrances.

*As you leave this evening, you may take a poinsettia plant,
a gift from First English. Merry Christmas!*

MINISTERS SERVING IN LITURGY | DECEMBER 24

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care	Teresa Ringness, Margaret Bruesch
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Building Open/Close	Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Floral Care	Teresa Ringness, Heidi Goebel
Lector	Trish Karli
Livestream Minister	J. P. Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	Cantor Bryan Rust; FELC Choir; Elijah Aguirre, oboe; Ajit D'Sa, guitar; Michael Marty, trumpet; Leigh Northcutt-Benson, Nikki Northcutt, Anne Wiebe, vocalists
Presiding Minister	Pastor Katie Rode
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by Teresa Ringness in memory of Teresa’s son, Jeffrey David Tice.

The Christmas Tree is given to the glory of God by Merrily and Terry Porter.

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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Christmas is the 12-day season of celebrating the mystery of the incarnation, the embodiment of God's Word in human life – in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ. More than that, through God's grace in Christ, we celebrate that God's love, justice, and mercy dwells in us and through us in the world.

Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr—December 26

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to die by stoning.

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist—December 27

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three Christian letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs—December 28

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Merry Christmas!

**Feliz Navidad! С Рождеством! Fröhe Weihnachten! Joyeux Noël!
Noheli Nziza! Eedookh Breekha!**

*The people, the congregation council, & the staff of
First English Lutheran Church wish each person a blessed & joyful Christmas!*



Artwork by Katie Rode, age 11

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

There is no Christmas Day worship service.

Sunday after Christmas Lessons & Carols | December 28 | 10:00 am

Onsite & YouTube livestream

Worship together with scripture, poetry, communion, & music

Epiphany Sunday | January 4, 2025 | 10:00 am

Onsite & YouTube livestream

Epiphany Celebration

Join together following worship for a festive Epiphany party!



WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to declare the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ through proclamation, teaching, worship, and a caring ministry to all people.

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, music, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries.

To subscribe to a Weekly Newsletter by email or connect with one of our staff, contact office@felcaustin.org.