

St. Matthew 2:13

When the wise men departed, behold an Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, 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 and destroy Him.”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 28, 2025

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (ELW) No. 275

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

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

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW) No. 289

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, You have given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made Your children by grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-14

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 111

¹ Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² **Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.**

³ Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵ He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.

⁶ **He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷ The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ **they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹ He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!

¹⁰ **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* The Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*sung after announcement of the Gospel*)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (*sung after conclusion of the Gospel*)

Children's Sermon

Pastor Grewe

(children leave for Sunday School)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(ELW) No. 385

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Angels From The Realms of Glory

(ELW) No. 275

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 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, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Angels We Have Heard on High

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.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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Refrain



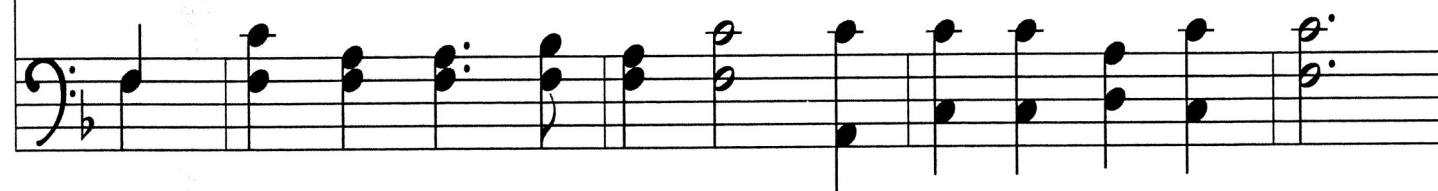
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



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



Refrain



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.



The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -'.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues from the first system. The lyrics are: 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -'.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are: 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly'.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are: 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of'.

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of musical notation on this page. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics are: 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



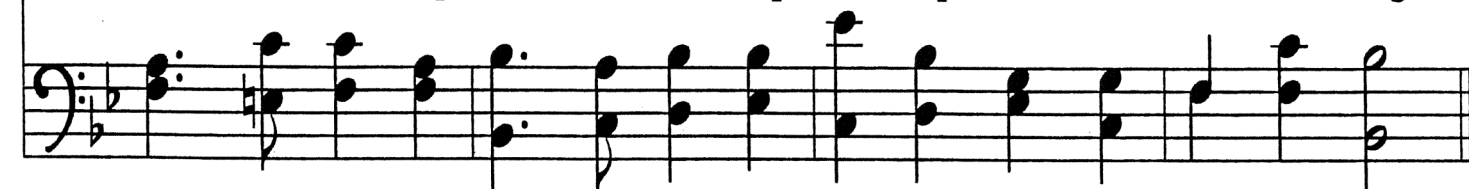
- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



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Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in memory of Jack & Anna Rea, Oliver “Bud” and Judy Hanam and son-in-law Brian Davis by Sonie Rea and family. A donation will be made to the Restoration Fund.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Maust.

Acolytes are Julia Jeffcoat and Matthew Mazzotti.

Counters/Greeters today are R. McGoogan and L. Coleman.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

The Flower Chart for 2026 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2026. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2026. Please sign up.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Isaac Christian, Lindsay Mankey, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Richard Hager, Judd Lacko, Sandy Mannsman, Ian, Isaiah, Aleashia, Sharon, Tammy, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Klaus & Mel, Bernadette, Bob and Anneleise Christian, Carl Group, Shari Kienzel, Susan Westott, Amber Falosk, Appolos Yocca, Brenda Tennant, Darlene Kosak, Gary Conti, June Gosnell, Sally Hazlett, Erin Reel, Stacy Carroll, R. J. Ramone, Gary, and Debbie Beighley.

Movie and Meal following service today.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

LISTENING FOR THE PROMISE

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

First Sunday after Christmas – December 28, 2025

“¹³Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Rise, 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.’ ¹⁶Then Herod sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.”

Matthew 2:13, 16 -

Mark Twain once wrote, “A myriad of men are born; they labor and sweat and struggle; they squabble and scold and fight; they scramble for little mean advantages over each other; age creeps upon them; infirmities follow; ...those they love are taken from them, and the joy of life is turned to aching grief. It (the release) comes at last—the only un-poisoned gift earth ever had for them—and they vanish from a world where they were of no consequence...a world which will lament them a day and forget them forever.” That’s how Twain spoke about matters of life and death.

Here you have a man who had so many blessings in his life. He was an accomplished author. He traveled the world. He entertained people with his speaking engagements and enjoyed using humor. He had a lovely wife and to that union they bore four children. But life wasn’t all roses for Twain. He and his wife lost their first-born son Langdon at the age of 19 months to diphtheria. Later Twain developed a deep depression that began shortly after his daughter Susy died at the age of 14 from meningitis. He lost his beloved wife Olivia in 1904 and then just three years later, on Christmas Eve, Twain’s second daughter Jean died at the age of 29. It was in 1906 that Mark Twain began writing his autobiography. And so, Twain’s view of life and death might make more sense to us now, knowing that he was in a very dark place himself. Yes, he had much to be thankful for, but death wasn’t foreign to the man, either. Mark Twain’s depression worsened as he aged closer to his death in 1910.

We’d prefer not to talk about death—especially this time of year: Christmas. It’s the season to be jolly, full of joy, and celebrating. And yet, here we have this reading from Luke, chapter 2 that records the time in history when Jesus was just a toddler. King Herod was so angry and felt so threatened, he ordered that every first-born male under the age of two be executed. This story, just three days after Christmas, leaves us feeling shocked and heartbroken. We know of this kind of horror in the present day. We hear stories of innocent people being killed, and it seems hopeless. But all is not lost, even amid evil. We have hope in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel (God with us). Jesus brings life out of death, murder, and bloodshed. Sadly, evil still exists, but one day God will silence evil once and for all. Jesus came among us, and we’ve celebrated his birth. God protected Jesus by warning his parents to take him away to Egypt, where Herod couldn’t reach him. But about 30 years later, Jesus would be faced with the cross, where he would die a criminal’s death. And then three days later, God would raise him from the dead. Jesus brings life out of death. Evil will continue to exist. People will continue to suffer and die. But we know that’s not the end of the story. One day, God will silence evil and suffering forever.

