

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**January 4, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**



**All who heard him  
were amazed...**

Luke 2:47, NRSV



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778

[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)

*Today, in the concluding days of the Christmas season, we reflect more deeply on the significance of the Christ who was born at Bethlehem. Our minds may not be able to comprehend just how Jesus existed with God from the very beginning of time, as the first chapter from the gospel of John proclaims today. What we do know is this: God comes into our presence today through Jesus Christ. Indeed it happens each Sunday and every other time that the church gathers. Through the scriptures as they are read and preached, through the bread and the wine as it is offered to the baptized, God is made flesh among us. The real miracle of Christmas is that God is here now with us--always.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## INVOCATION

*Stand*

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

**C** Amen.

**P** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.. **C** Amen.

## WORDS OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Kneel/ Remain Standing*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C** Amen.

**SHARING OF PEACE** *Share a greeting of peace with those around you.*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**HYMN**                    **"The First Noel"**

1) The first No - ël                    the an - gel did  
2) They look - ed up                    and saw a  
3) And by the light                    of that same  
4) This star drew near                    to the north -  
5) Then entered in                    those wise men

say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they  
star Shin - ing in the east be - yond them  
star Three wise men came from coun - try  
west, O'er Beth - le - hem it took its  
three And of - fered there in his pre -

lay; in fields where they lay, keep - ing their  
far; And to the earth it gave great  
far; To seek for a king was their in -  
rest; And there it did both stop and  
sence Full rev' - rent - ly up - on their

sheep, on a cold win-ter's night\_\_\_ that was\_\_\_ so deep.  
 light, And\_\_\_ so it con - tin - ued both day\_\_\_ and night.  
 tent, And to fol - low the star\_\_\_ wher - ev - er it went.  
 stay Right\_\_\_ o - ver the place\_\_\_ where Je - sus lay.  
 knee, Their gold,\_\_\_ and myrrh,\_\_\_ and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - ël,\_\_\_ No - ël, No - ël,\_\_\_ No - ël!\_\_\_  
 Born is the King\_\_\_ of Is - ra - el.

Meter: irregular  
 English carol, 17th century

Sources: Matt. 2:1-12;  
 Luke 2:8-14; LBW 56

Tune: The First Nowell  
 English carol, 17th century

## GREETING

**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.**

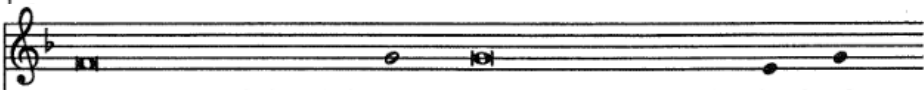
## KYRIE

*♩ = 44-48*

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation let us pray to the Lord.



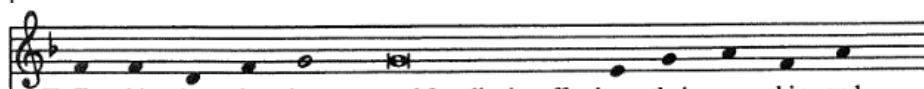
Lord, have mer - cy.



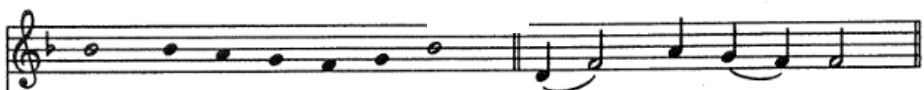
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



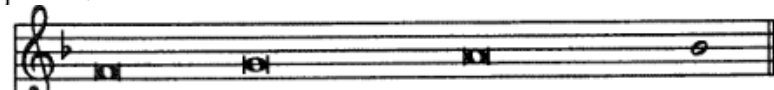
God, and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



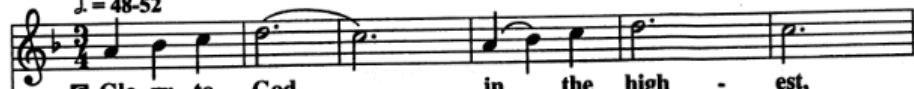
Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gracious Lord.



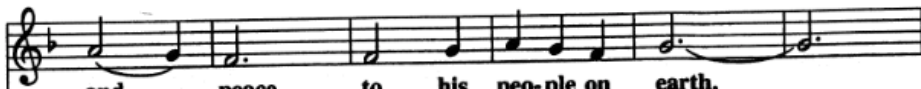
A - men

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

$\text{♩} = 48-52$



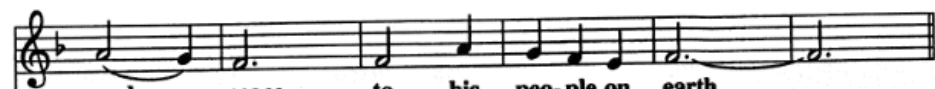
Glo-ry to God in the high - est,



and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est,



and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

□ Lord God, heav - en - ly king,  
al - mighty God and Fa - ther,  
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry.  
▣ Glo - ry to God in the high - est,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
▣▣ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world:  
have mer - cy on us; you are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther:

re-ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God in the high-est,

and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Glo-ry to God in the high-est,

and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

☐ For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-

lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High,

Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the

glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.

☐ Glo-ry to God in the high-est,

A-men, a-men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

**P** Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

*Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.*

## FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 31:7-14

*The lambs of God's flock frolic joyfully, safe in the careful shepherding of their Lord. God comes to redeem by turning mourning into joy and sorrow into gladness.*

**R** Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
"Save, O Lord, your people,  
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and  
those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.



Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND LESSON** Ephesians 1:3-14

*God chooses us to be adopted children, holy and without blemish. As children, we have a legacy--redemption and the forgiveness of sin--that was entrusted to us when we were sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism.*

**R** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

*J* = 80-88

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e -  
ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL** [P] The Gospel is written in John chapter 1 beginning at verse 1. [C]  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

[P] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. [C] **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence 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.**

**MESSAGE "My Father's House"**

**HYMN "Once in Royal David's City"**

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and

Continued on next page

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed; Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.  
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76; setting: Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

IRBY  
87 87 77

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "hear our prayer." The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



## OFFERTORY MUSIC AND PRAYER

*J = 76-84*



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.  
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me.

**P** Let us pray. Ever-sustaining God,  
**C** you bless us with life, with a world to sustain us, and with one another.  
Receive these gifts we offer so that through us, all people may know your steadfast love in Jesus, our Savior.

## PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should ... and so we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS**



**J = 72-80**

**C** Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might.  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**P** 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.

**P** 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.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

*Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.*

**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

**LAMB OF GOD**

*♩ = 48-52*

☐ 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.

*Sit*  
**THE DISTRIBUTION** *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

## HYMN

## "Hoy Child"

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your  
 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
 love for us was shown, when the im - age of your  
 ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
 glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.  
 stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and  
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -  
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
© 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

JOYOUS LIGHT  
87 87 D

Stand

## THE BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

*J = 104-112*

**C** Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise;  
tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in

joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, you gave your only Son that we may know and love you with body, heart, and mind. United in the body of Christ, may we glorify and praise you in our lives for all that we have heard and seen in the wonder of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** Amen.

### BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **C** Amen.

**P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

### CLOSING HYMN "I Wonder as I Wander"

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how  
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came  
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a  
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like  
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a  
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in  
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like

Gm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> Gm Cm<sup>9</sup> Gm Cm  
 you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.  
 star's light did fall; the prom-ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.  
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.  
 you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980  
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980  
 © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

I WONDER  
 12 11 11 12

## POSTLUDE

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## Our Confession about Communion

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. has been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord and concur in our confession.

b. is not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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