

FIRST SUNDAY

After Christmas



ST. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28th & December 29th, 2024

The Season

In the person of Jesus, God gave us himself. And because our God became truly human and did everything necessary for our salvation, he is able to give us so many other Christmas gifts: forgiveness, hope, peace, a place in his family, eternal life in paradise. These gifts are given by our gracious God to show us his favor.

The Sunday

The Son of God took on flesh for two reasons: to be our substitute and our sacrifice. He is the only human being to keep all of God's law perfectly. He did that as our substitute. Through faith, we claim his perfection as our own. The Son of God became human for another reason—so that he might die as the sacrifice for our sins, removing that barrier between us and a holy God. Jesus saving work began the moment he was born under the law and obeyed it.

The Service

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar in which we joyfully receive Christ's body and blood, in, with, and under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament we also give public confession of our complete unity in the Christian faith. We invite communicant members of St. Lucas Lutheran Church, or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune. If you are a guest visiting with us today, please refrain from communing until you have spoken with our pastor. The congregation reads the portions in bold print.

Prayer before Worship

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, loving Lord, for cleansing me of my sins and adopting me into your family through the miracle of Holy Baptism. As I worship today, help me remember what my baptism means to me. Lead me to feel genuine sorrow for my sins and empower me to put down the sinful nature that still lives in me. Lift me up as I hear your promise of forgiveness and give me strength to live a life pleasing to you.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Timothy Henning

Organist: Coralee Henning

Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 355

Stand for the 6th stanza



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies
form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who
hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—
a great exchange indeed!

Could Jesus' love do more for me
to help me in my need,
to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
of paradise today.

The angel guards the gate no more;
to God our thanks we pay,
to God our thanks we pay.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dialogue

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears?

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

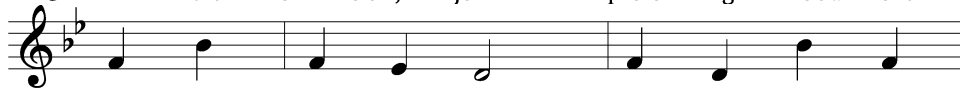
Amen.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

CW 347



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1-3): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879
Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9

As our substitute Jesus demonstrated perfect obedience and trust, even when his Father asked him to be the sacrifice for our sin.

⁴The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

⁵The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.

⁶I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

⁷Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,
I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.

⁸He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!

⁹It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.
Who will condemn me?
They will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will eat them up.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

How Lovely

Psalm 84A

Sung responsively between Pastor & congregation

Refrain



Tone



How lovely is your / dwelling place,

LORD Al- / mighty!

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts / of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh cry out for the / living God.

Blessed are those who dwell / in your house;

they are ever / praising you. Refrain

Better is one day / in your courts

than a thousand / elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God

than dwell in the tents of the / wicked.

LORD Al- / mighty,

blessed is the one who / trusts in you.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Tune: Thomas Pavlechko

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Setting: © 1996 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703484

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10–18

Through his suffering and sacrifice, Jesus has made us holy. He now calls us his brothers and sisters.

¹⁰In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹²He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

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

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 2:30,31

Alleluia!

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:41–52

Even as a boy, Jesus was acting as our substitute, demonstrating obedience to the Heavenly Father and respect for God’s holy Word.

⁴¹Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

⁴⁹“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Sermon

Children may come forward to the front pew

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

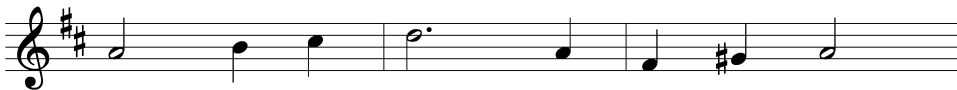
CW 342



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is
2 He whom the sea and wind o - bey
3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;
4 Pon - der a - gain what glo - ry then
5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.
comes down to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.
the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.
but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word
Now God's own Son with us is one
For God's own Child in mer - cy mild
The an - gel host can nev - er boast
To him hold fast un - til at last



made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
and joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
joins you to him— how great - ly God must love you!
of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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Sermon

Luke 2:41-52 *This Is Where You Need to Be*

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially . . . here name the person]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering: *God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.*



The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written on a grand staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first two staves form the first line of the hymn, the next two form the second line, and the final two form the third line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Be seated

Distribution

Personal Prayer before Communing

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Personal Prayer after Communing

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CW 360



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go † in peace.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded

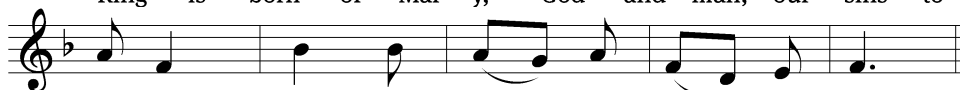
CW 351 sts. 1, 3-4



1 He whose praise the shep - herds sound-ed— told, by
3 Join in Mar - y's ju - bi - la - tion! An - gels,
4 Sing through - out the sanc - tu - ar - y: Christ the



an - gel hosts sur - round-ed, that their fears were all un -
in their heav'n - ly sta - tion, hail the birth that brings sal -
King is born of Mar - y, God and man, our sins to



found-ed— now is born our glo - rious King!
va - tion. Oh, how sweet their ho - ly song!
car - ry. Thanks and praise to him be - long!

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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Church Resources

Family Devotions: Get your family into God’s Word during the week! Our church body has short devotions available for the entire family. Each devotion comes with a Set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Please visit wels.net/family-devotions to get your weekly devotions.

Marriage Moments: Every marriage has its “moments”. That’s why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos directly through email at welscongregationaleseices.net/marriagemoments.

Connecting WELS Members: Connection is more important now than ever. Our church body offers many ways for WELS members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welstweets, Instagram.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/wels.

WELS Together e-Newsletter: Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the WELS Together e-Newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don’t miss the twice-monthly videos that cover important and exciting synod news. Please visit wels.net/together to read and subscribe.

Baptism: If you or a loved one had not yet been baptized, and are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Henning.

Church Membership Starting Point If you’re interested in becoming a member here at St. Lucas, we would love to share with you a few Bible studies to introduce you to the biblical teaching here at St. Lucas. We are willing to set up these classes in any setting most comfortable for you, and can always find time that will work for anyone and everyone. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Henning, whose contact info can be found on the final page of this bulletin, underneath the church calendar.

Celebrating God’s Blessings This Week


BIRTHDAYS

Colton Blake	12/30	Emmett Homuth	1/1	Derek Schulz	1/4
Crystal Fochs	12/31	Samuel Rudzitis	1/1	Eugene Ebert	1/4
Stevie McLay	12/31	Wren Becht	1/3		

CALENDAR



Readings for Dec. 29th 2024 - Jan. 5th 2025

DEC 29	DEC 30	DEC 31	JAN 1
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Isaiah 55:1-13 Luke 1:1-25	Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21 Luke 1:26-38	Isaiah 60:1-22 Luke 1:39-56	Isaiah 61:1-11 Luke 1:57-80
Worship w/Communion 8 am		Worship 6:00 pm	
Worship w/Communion 10:30 am			
JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4	JAN 5
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Isaiah 62:1-12 Luke 2:1-20	Isaiah 63:1-14 Luke 2:21-40	Isaiah 63:15-65:2 Luke 2:41-52	Isaiah 65:8-25 Luke 3:1-20
		Worship 6:00 pm	Worship 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Worship 10:30 am

St. Lucas Lutheran Church strives to be a congregation that is always inviting, always edifying, and always equipping. www.stlucaswels.org

Contact Information

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