

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Cross!

Christmas Eve 2025

www.lutheranvictoria.ca

The audio for worship will be muted until
worship begins

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Pastor

THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST JESUS **Worship with Carols and Candlelight**

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025 - 5:00 PM

The angel says, "Do not be afraid." These words of reassurance are for us, in times of war and uncertainty.

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Procession of Light

I wonder as I wander – arr. B. Britten, solo

Proclamation

Isaiah 9:6-7

Gathering Song
O Come, All Ye Faithful – No. 283
verses 1-3

Vs. 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!

Vs. 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 O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Vs. 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest:

Refrain O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Greeting

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

And also with you.

*Children are invited to set up the Christmas scene at
the church, and everyone is invited to do so at home
as well.*

Gospel Acclamation

Angels We Have Heard on High – No. 289

verses 1 & 3

Vs. 1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo!

Vs. 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gospel Reading – part 1
Luke 2:1-4

O Little Town of Bethlehem – No. 279

Vs. 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;

but in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

Vs. 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.

No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Gospel Reading – part 2
Luke 2:5-7

Away in a Manger – No. 277

Vs. 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Vs. 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Vs. 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Gospel Reading – part 3

Luke 2:8-12

What Child Is This – No. 296

Vs. 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!

Vs. 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Gospel Reading – part 4
Luke 2:13-14

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – No. 270

Vs. 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

Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;

Vs. 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.

Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;

Gospel Reading – part 5
Luke 2:15-20

The Gospel of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day
Night Long-Awaited– No. 912

Vs. 1 Night long awaited, God comes to earth
Blooming like roses, love given birth
Still in the starlight, silent and clear
Peace comes among us, Christmas is here

Vs. 2 Sleep in a manger, safe and adored
All that is broken shall be restored
Light for our shadows, grace for our loss
Born for our dying, bearing our cross

Vs. 3 Now is God's promise born in the night
Wake to its fullness, live in its light
Christ comes among us, people, draw near!
Come to the manger, Christmas is here

Prayers of Intercession

As we pray, "In peace and joy we pray;"
you are invited to respond: **Glory to you, O God.**

Peace Sharing

The Peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering Song
On Christmas Night – No. 274

Vs. 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring.
On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful king's birth.

Vs. 2 Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

Vs. 3 When sin departs before his face,
then life and health come in its place.

When sin departs before his face,
then life and health come in its place.

Angels rejoice with us and sing,
all for to see the newborn king.

Vs. 4 All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:

"Glory to God in highest heav'n;
peace on earth, and goodwill. Amen."

*As we light candles at the church, those online may
do so as well for the singing of Silent Night.*

Silent Night – No. 281

Vs. 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Vs. 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

Vs. 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at your birth,
Jesus, Lord at your birth.

Prayer for this night

The 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. 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.**

Blessing
...Amen.

Sending Song
Joy to the World – No. 267

Vs. 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Vs. 2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Vs. 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Vs. 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal
...Thanks be to God

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Marta Lefsrud

Kantor: Nathan McDonald

Musician: Karen Johnson-Lefsrud

Readers: Al Frisk, Vicki Zilene, Skylar Smith,
Michelle Couture, Pierce Nettling

Livestream: Braeden McKenzie

Ushers: Don Storch, Michael Storch

*You are invited to Holy Communion Worship with
Carols:*

***Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 at 11
AM (no livestream)***

***The First Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 10 AM
PT (livestream)***

*For more information, please check the website
www.lutheranvictoria.ca
for the Crossroads newsletter, calendar, and events.
Follow us at **[Facebook.com/lutheranvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/lutheranvictoria)** and
[Instagram @lutheranvictoria](https://www.instagram.com/lutheranvictoria)*

***Blessed Christmas! And peace on earth and
goodwill to all.***

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