



December 28, 2025 - 9:30 am

## 1st Sunday of Christmas



### GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Call to Worship

Gathering Song

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

ELW 288

Greeting

Kyrie

ELW Page 98

Hymn of Praise

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

ELW 282

Prayer

### WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching

#### Children's Message

**Isaiah 63:7-9**...I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.<sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior<sup>9</sup> in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Hebrews 2:10-18**...It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.<sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,<sup>12</sup> saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."<sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.<sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham.<sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.<sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### Gospel Acclamation

**Matthew 2:13-23**...Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, 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."<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his

mother by night, and went to Egypt<sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.<sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:<sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,<sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."<sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.<sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**Kelsey Ellis**

**Hymn of the Day**

*"I Wonder as I Wander"*

**Prayers**

**Sharing God's Peace**

**Offering**

**Special Music**

**Offertory**

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

(vs 1, 2) ELW 269

**Lord's Prayer**

**SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love**

**Blessing**

**Sending Song**

*"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"*

ELW 297

**Dismissal**

**Postlude**

### Announcements

- ⇒ **Food Pantry** Our next food pantry is our Saturday, January 3rd from 8 to 10am. [CLICK HERE](#) to help. Donations are needed! Our most pressing needs right now are ramen, pasta sauce, and tuna. To help with our inventory control please only put your donations in the blue bin. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community ministry.
- ⇒ **Altar Flowers** for 2026 are now available for purchase for \$47. Please [click here](#) to sign up or contact the church office.
- ⇒ **Budget Forum** Join us following worship Sunday January 11th for our Budget Forum where the 2026 budget will be discussed.
- ⇒ **Congregation Annual Meeting Save the Date** Sunday, January 25th at 10:45am in person only.
- ⇒ **Giving through Venmo** You can now support the ministries of Holy Cross via Venmo. Find us on Venmo @HolyCrossLutheran.

### Calendar for Upcoming Week

#### **Sunday, December 28**

9:30 am     Worship  
3:00 pm     Girl Scout Troup 48012 Mtg

#### **Monday, December 29**

6:30 pm     Boy Scouts  
9:00 pm     CMA Meeting

#### **Tuesday, December 30**

7:30 pm     AA Meeting

#### **Thursday, January 1**

Office Closed

#### **Friday, January 2**

1:00 pm     Knitting in the Narthex  
6:00 pm     Food Pantry Prep

#### **Friday, January 3**

8:00 am     Food Pantry  
2:00 pm     Johannes Eagle Ceremony

#### **Sunday, December 21**

9:30 am     Worship  
2:00 pm     Celebration of Life Virgil Pilger—VFW

### Prayer Requests from our Church Community

**Member Concerns:** Norm Firkins; Phyllis Beam; Donna McCoy; Connie Mertz.

**Friends and Relatives:** Jane Marsh, aunt of Jen Gitt; Jim O'Grady, uncle of Pastor Heather Grell; Pat & Barry Butterfield, mother and father of Amy Odson; Deniel Algarin, nephew of Alicia Glesne; Scott Matheson, brother in law of Julie Noteman; Joshua Perilo, son of Sharon Perilo; Crosby Vargas, friend of Julie Noteman; Savannah Barb, cousin of Emma & Geno Roberts; Sonrisa Lewis, friend of the Harvey family; Avery W.; Ken Gross, cousin of Julie Noteman; Josh Moreau, friend of Wendy Brenner's family; Nancy Bartell, sister-in-law of Peg Schneider; Michael Schadendorf, grandfather of Edith and Tanya Valandra; Erin Peters, daughter of Gail Ginger; Anna Victor, aunt of Jen Gitt; Dave Huggins, friend of Jim & Peg Schneider; Mya Calendar, daughter of Trisha Ryan; Carol Deditz, sister of Julie Noteman; Opal Calendar, foster granddaughter of Trisha Ryan; Kelsey Schneider, daughter of Jim & Peg Schneider; Theresa Ramelb, friend of Jacque Petersen; Shari Jensen, friend of Ed Krueger; Ronda Bayer, friend of Debbie Risinger; Debbie Haacke, coworker of Debbie Risinger; Linda Anderson, Barb Kay's sister; Aaron McDonald and Family and Caregivers, McDonald's grandson.

**Grieving:** Bill Turley and his family as they mourn the death of Dorothy.

Irene and Troy Schnack and their families as they mourn the death of Gordon.

Charlene Pilger and her family as they mourn the death of Virgil.