



SOUTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD
**SERVICE OF THE
WORD**



**FIRST SUNDAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Come All Ye Faithful

Larry Peterson, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Urbandale

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge and honor the Iowa, Peoria, Kiikaapoi, Myaamia, Sauk and Meskwaki, and Oceti Sakowin peoples upon whose ancestral homelands our Synod gathers, as well as all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place – this land – and call it their home.

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

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| FIRST READING | Micah 5:2-5a |
| ANTHEM | <i>The First Nowell</i> Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge |
| SECOND READING | Luke 1:26-38 |
| CAROL | <i>Stopford Magnificat</i> by Peter Calhoun Christ the King Lutheran Church, Iowa City |
| THIRD READING | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| ANTHEM | Jesus Christ, The Apple Tree Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City |
| FOURTH READING | Luke 2:8-20 |
| CAROL | <i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> |
| FIFTH READING | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| ANTHEM | <i>To the World, Joy</i> Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge |
| SIXTH READING | Luke 2:8-20 |

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| ANTHEM | <i>We Three Kings</i> Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion |
| GOSPEL | Matthew 2:13-23 |
| SERMON | Bishop Amy Current |
| HYMN OF THE DAY | <i>Joy to the World</i> Larry Peterson, St. Stephen Lutheran Church |

THE 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Guide your church to confess that Jesus is Lord. Fill us with wonder at the good and saving news of Jesus. May we treasure your words and meditate upon them, that we reveal your glory to the world with humility and hope.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your name, O God, is majestic in all the earth. You set the moon and stars in their courses. You are mindful of every work of your hand: flocks and cattle, birds and fish, seas and fields. Make us wise stewards of your creation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless the nations with your grace and peace. Inspire and uphold treaties, cease-fires, and international agreements that seek to calm strife between nations. Shield all those who work to protect vulnerable populations from exploitation or danger.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We cry, "Abba! Father!" as we seek your loving care in times of need. Heal those wounded by hurtful words. Console all who are weighed down by depression and anxiety. Call by name any who feel unloved, misunderstood, or rejected. Heal the sick.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal yourself to us in the fullness of time, O God. Give us gratitude for what has been and hope for what is to come. Grace us with your presence during transitions: new jobs or schools, new homes, new diagnoses, or new relationships.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With thanksgiving, we remember all the saints who proclaimed the name of Jesus in life and who now rest in glory. Show us our inheritance as adopted heirs of eternal life.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life
**cast away the darkness of
injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**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.**

SENDING

BLESSING AND SENDING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.
We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.
We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace! Proclaim this good news!
Thanks be to God!

Thank you to the choirs, music directors, and A/V technicians who shared music for this worship service.

- ❖ First Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids
- ❖ St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Urbandale
- ❖ Christ the King Lutheran Church, Iowa City
- ❖ Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marion
- ❖ Faith Lutheran Church, Eldridge
- ❖ Zion Lutheran Church, Iowa City

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