



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of The Holy Trinity*

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

*December 24, 2021
7:00 p.m.*

Welcome to all on this holy night! We extend a special greeting to those visiting with us to join in the celebration of the Savior's birth. May the love, mercy, and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ be yours always. Have a blessed Christmas!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: Come forward by the center aisle in two lines. Take a small glass from the tray held by the ushers. Receive the host from the presiding minister, alternating between left and right lines. You may receive the host either in your open palm or in your mouth. Move to the chalice bearer on your side, and receive the wine poured into the small glass. Return to your pew by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray provided at the table in the aisle.

If you are unable to consume either the bread or wine, be assured that Christ is fully present for us in either element; reverence the body or blood of Christ by saying, "Amen" when the host or the chalice is presented.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

The Christmas Day Holy Communion is tomorrow morning at 10:45 a.m. Celebrate Christ's birthday in worship!



Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please gather in silence and prepare for worship. Remember to turn off cell phones. Thank you.

Assembly responses are in **bold type**.

Prelude *Selected Seasonal Preludes* (Walther et al)

Gathering

Greeting

(The assembly faces the rear of the church.)

Proclamation of the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Gathering Song O, Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

 come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Christmas Dialog

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven.”

In Christ, God’s Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

Blessing at the Crèche

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

And we beheld his glory.

O Lord God, our caring parent, you have made this night holy by the birth of your Son, Jesus the Christ, and by the child-bearing of his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Grant that we, your people, may enter with joy into the celebration of this holy season, and with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, gather around your Son born for us and present tonight in the Word and blessed sacrament. Through your holy

presence inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. As Brycen and Jeremy Miller bore the figure of the Christ child tonight, so be with us that we might bear Christ's love to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

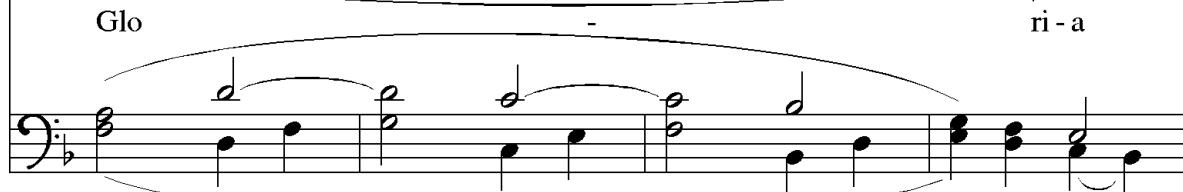
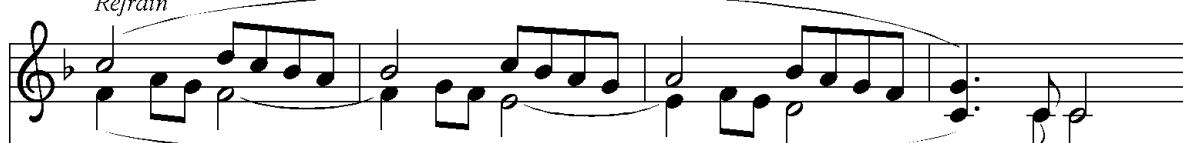
Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



in ex - cel - sis De - o;
glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness 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.

(The assembly is seated.)

Word

First Reading

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
- 3 Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- 6 Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!**
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo- | ples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful
and all that | is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy**
at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.
- 13 You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

Second Reading

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Titus 2:11-14

Gospel procession

Silent Night, Holy Night

- 1 *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht,
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht,
nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lokigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*
- 2 **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.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord. (Shouted)

(The reading of the Christmas Gospel)

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ. (Shouted)

(The assembly is seated.)

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

(Silence for meditation - the assembly stands as the organ sounds.)

Hymn of the Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won'dring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding, Merciful God, receive our prayer.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night. Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(All greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

(The assembly is seated.)

Meal

Offering

Music during the Offering Interlude on *Greensleeves* (Purvis)

(The assembly stands.)

Offertory Hymn

What Child Is This

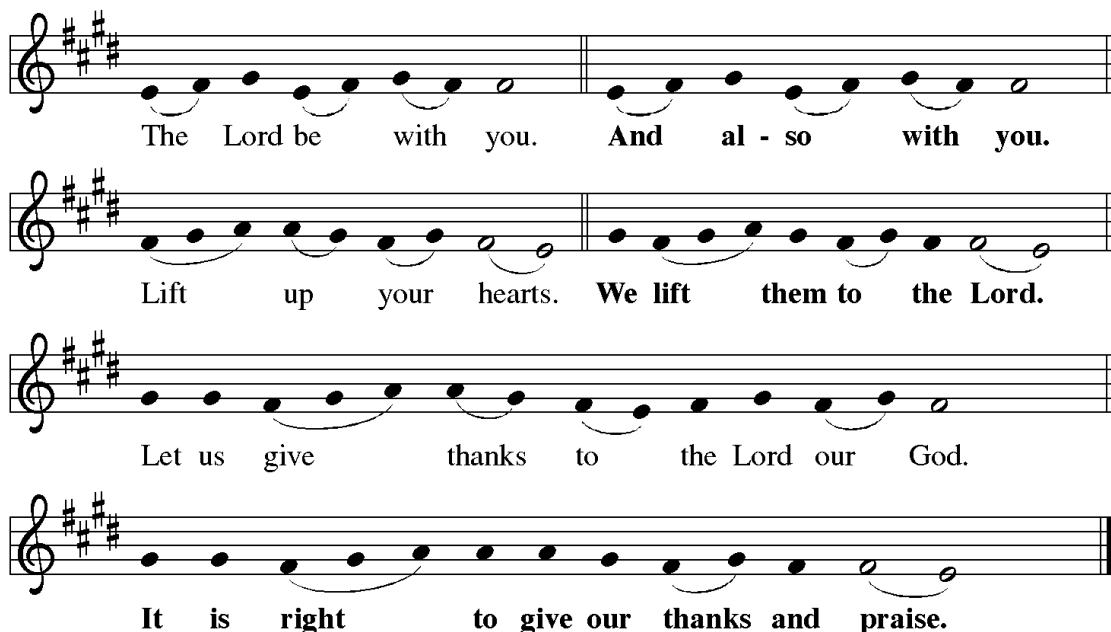
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
 This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

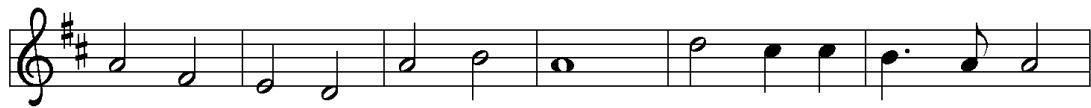
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy



Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



of your glo - ry.



Bless - ed is he who comes



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, our loving Father,
we are glad to give you thanks and praise
because you love us.

Because you love us,
you sent Jesus your Son to be born in a manger,
to bring us to you
and to gather us around him
as the children of one family.

**Blessed be Jesus, whom you sent
to be the friend of children and of the poor.**

He came to show us
how we can love you, Father,
by loving one another.
He came to take away sin,
which keeps us from being friends,
and hate, which makes us all unhappy.

He promised to send the Holy Spirit,
to be with us always
so that we can live as your children.

**Blessed be Jesus, whom you sent
to be the friend of children and of the poor.**

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.

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.
And so, loving Father,
we remember that Jesus died and rose again to save the world.

**Blessed be Jesus, whom you sent
to be the friend of children and of the poor.**

Lord our God,
listen to our prayer;
send the Holy Spirit
to all of us who share in this holy meal and on this bread and wine
that it may be for us the body and blood of Christ.
May the Spirit bring us closer together
in the family of the church and all who serve your people.
Gather us all together into your everlasting kingdom.
There we shall be happy forever with all your people.
There all the friends of Jesus the Lord will sing a song of joy.

**Blessed be Jesus, whom you sent
to be the friend of children and of the poor.**

Through him all glory and honor is
yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
now and forever.

Amen.

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.

Breaking of Bread

See, your salvation comes:

God comes and dwells among us.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, eat, drink and be satisfied.

(The assembly is seated.)

Lamb of God



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.

Hymns during the Distribution

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



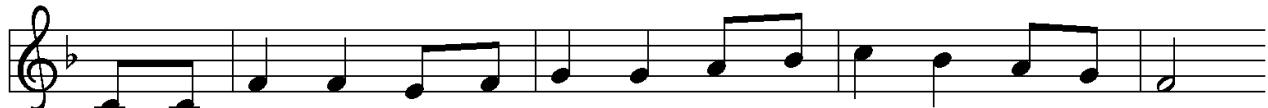
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.



Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 Infant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

On Christmas Night



1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then life and health come
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An - gels re - joice with us and
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est



mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
sing, all for to see the new - born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good - will. A - men."

(The assembly stands.)

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you unto eternal life.

Amen.

Post Communion Canticle

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

God of light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation in this holy feast you have prepared for us. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

(Silence for reflection.)

Sending

Christmas Seasonal Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** *(Sung)*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**
(Sung)

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.** *(Sung)*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.** *(Sung)*

(The assembly faces the cross as it passes in procession and follows the Pastor to the narthex and the steps.)



Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and
 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
Peace to God's people on earth!
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Finale on *Antioch*

(Handel; arr. Fedak)

and his name shall be called
Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.

Hymnody

283	O, Come, All Ye Faithful	ADESTE FIDELES
289	Angels We Have Heard On High	GLORIA
279	O Little Town of Bethlehem	ST. LOUIS
296	What Child is This	GREENSLEEVES
277	Away in a Manger	AWAY IN A MANGER
276	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly	W ZLOBIE LEZY
274	On Christmas Night	SUSSEX CAROL
288	Good Christian Friends Rejoice	IN DULCI JUBILO
267	Joy to the World	ANTIOCH

Serving Tonight

Presiding Minister	Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist	Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon	Marj Stubert
Communion Assistant	Alyssa Martin
Acolyte/Crucifer	Jackson Weaver
Lector	Mike Balas
Torch Bearers	Hannah McKinney Gianna Weaver
Banner Bearer	Zach Morgan
Streamer Bearer	Sydney Balas
Head Usher	Jim Martin

Brycen and Jeremy Miller, sons of Jake and Jamie Miller, will bear the Christ child in procession to the crèche for the blessing of the crèche. This blessing signals the beginning of the parish's celebration of the twelve day Christmas season.

