

LESSONS AND CAROLS



*The Word became flesh
and lived among us*

JOHN 1:14

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
December 31, 2023
10:30 A.M.

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Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor
Larry Peterson, Director of Worship and Music

P = Pastor **L** = Lector [reader] **C** Congregation *ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)*

PRELUDE

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit.

**Please use the red ELW hymnal in your pew to sing the hymns this day.
The hymns will also be projected on the screens.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN: *Joy to the World*

ELW Hymn 267

LITANY

- P** Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
C **By day and night he shines for all to see.**
P Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
C **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**
P God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
C **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**
P Jesus is the light of the world.
C **Jesus is the light of our lives.**
P Sing to God a new song!
C **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,
C **you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.
Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.
Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.
Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts. Amen.**

Please be seated

LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

Carol: *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

ELW Hymn 284

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Carol: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ELW Hymn 279

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carol: *Cold December Flies Away*

ELW Hymn 299

Please stand as you are able.

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Carol: *Jesus, What a Wonderful Child*

ELW Hymn 297

Please be seated.

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Carol: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

ELW Hymn 275

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

Carol: *In the Bleak Midwinter*

ELW Hymn 294

Please stand as you are able.

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

Carol: *Love Has Come*

ELW Hymn 292

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P** It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
C **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**
P In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**
P In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**
P In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to sing for joy with the angels.**
P In the brightness of his life
C **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**
P It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
C **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

- P** The peace of the Christ child be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>
 We acknowledge that you may have already offered your gifts electronically or by mail. Thank you.



Please be seated.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

—ELW page 153

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.
 You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in either the chalice of wine or the white grape juice.
 You may also choose a packaged cup with wine or grape juice, or a gluten-free wafer with wine.*

COMMUNION HYMN: *What Child Is This*

ELW Hymn 296

BLESSING

P Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
C Praise God, all creatures here below!
P You are the shepherds telling the story.
C We tell it in the streets and across the land.
P You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
C We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.
P You are the angels announcing peace.
C We live with joy and go now in peace.
P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

SENDING HYMN: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

ELW Hymn 288

SENDING

P Christ the Savior is born!
 Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Altar Guild: Carol Talbot

Lector:

Tech crew: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins

Ushers: Bob Spruck, Mike Oliver