



**St. Olaf Lutheran Church**  
**December 28, 2025**  
**10am Service**

## **Prelude**

### **Welcome & Announcements**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

P: We waited.

**C: And imagined a savior.**

P: We imagined power.

**C: One like the world but stronger and on our side.**

P: We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

**C: We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.**

P: We imagined the work done for us  
through the destruction of our enemies.

**C: We receive a baby who will teach us our calling  
to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.**

P: Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

**C: Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!**

#### **\*Hymn**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**ELW 283 v1-2**

#### **\*Opening Prayer**

**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.**

*Please be seated*

#### **Lay Professional Installation**

*Katie Bills – Youth and Family Director*

**Isaiah 9:2-7** *God promises a king*

*(Lynda M)*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the trampling warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the

fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**\*Hymn**      *Lo, How a Rose E'er blooming*

**ELW 272 v 1&2**

**Micah 5:2-5a**      *The king will come from Bethlehem*      (Austin R)

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Special Music**

*Away in a Manger*

**Bell Choir**

**Luke 1:26-35, 38**      *The annunciation to Mary*      (Stacy H)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the

Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**ELW 279**

**Luke 2:1-7** *The birth of Jesus*

*(Pastor Emily)*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn**

*Silent Night*

**ELW 281**

**Luke 2:8-16** *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

*(Viv N)*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on

Earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Luke 2:21-38** *Jesus receives his name**(Nancy H)*

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Matthew 2:1-11** *The magi follow the star**(Pastor Jim)*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least

among the rulers of Judah: for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Hymn** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* **ELW 282 v1&2**

**John 1:1-14** *The mystery of the incarnation* (Jane W)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**\*Hymn** *What Child is This?* **ELW 296 v 1&2**

**\*Apostles Creed**

**pg 105**

**\*Prayers of intercession**

Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

**\*Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

**Offering:** *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you.*

**Hymn**

*Joy to the World*

**ELW 267 v1-2**

**\*Offering prayer**

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**\*Blessing**

The triune God,

glorious Mystery,

holy Incarnate One,

abiding Comforter,

✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**ELW 270**

**Dismissal**

P: Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

P: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

*We invite you to come to the Fellowship Hall for a time for fellowship and to welcome Katie Bills.*

**Assisting in Worship**

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Organ: Jason Swedlund

Special Music: Bell Choir

Readers: Lynda Mumm, Viv Nore, Stacy Hendrickson, Austin Read, Nancy Hamilton

Ushers: Viv Nore, Craig Hamilton, Terry Hansen