



A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community

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## December 24, 2025 – Nativity of Our Lord 5 & 7 pm Candle-light Service

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell  
Assisting Minister: Margie Nunweiler  
Ministers: Every member  
Video/Live Streaming: Anton Chell

Council President: Karen Oko  
Musician: Kathryn Elford  
Choir Director: Jared Samborski  
Trumpet Player: Mackenzie Wood  
Bass Player: Andrew Eckert

In our homes and around the world, we are united with our loved ones by the Spirit of God  
in worship. Come let us adore Christ whose promises of hope, peace,  
joy and love resound in our troubled world.

### Prelude

### Advent Candle-lighting

5:00 pm Choir *'Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love'*

### Introduction

Carol: *'O Come, All Ye Faithful'* (ELW 283) vs 1,2

### Welcome

Reading: **Luke 1:26-28** *The Annunciation of Mary*

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!"

Carol: *'Angels, from the Realms of Glory'* (ELW 275) vs 1,2,4

### Prayer of the Day

5:00 pm Choir Anthem *'Celtic Christmas'*

7:00 pm Carol *'What Child is This'* (ELW 296)

**Reading: Isaiah 11:1-4**    *The Prophet Isaiah Foretells Jesus' Coming*

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom: The Spirit of God will rest on you— a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for God. You will delight in obeying God, and you won't judge by appearances, or make decisions by hearsay. You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden.

**Carol** 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming' (ELW 272) vs 1-3

**Reading: Luke 2:1-6**    *The Holy Family Travels to Bethlehem*

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to "the city of David"— Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her delivery.

**Carol** 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' (ELW 270)

**Gospel Reading: Luke 2:7-14**    *The Promised Child Arrives!*

She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn. There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. The angel said to them, "You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David's city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you'll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

**Sermon** – Rev. Liz Bell

**Carol** 'It Came upon a Midnight Clear' (ELW 282) vs 1,3

**A Christmas Creed** by Walter Russell Bowie

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty  
of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town;  
and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world,  
in towns both large and small.**

**I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room,  
and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants**

to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth  
ignored and the proud could never understand;

whose life was among common people,

whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms,

whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth,

who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them,

who by love brought sinners back to purity,

and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God:

The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed,

the need of new life for empty souls,

the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God,

born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world. Amen.

### **Reading: Titus 3:4-7**

When the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

### **The Prayers**

L: God of Bethlehem,

C: hear our prayer.

**Carol 'Angels We Have Heard on High' (ELW 289)**

**The Lord's Prayer** – contemporary spoken

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

### **Offering**

**Offertory**      5:00 pm HSLC Choir Anthem 'Hallelujah Chorus',

7:00 pm Carol 'Infant Holy, Infant Lowly' ELW 276



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Offering envelopes are available in the pews for your offerings.

Guests please ensure to print your name/address so tax receipts may be issued.

E-transfers are accepted by emailing the church office:

[church@holyspiritlutheran.ca](mailto:church@holyspiritlutheran.ca) use the password: *Donation*.

Offerings are also accepted by scanning the QR codes to donate via Credit Card or Paypal

*We begin candle lighting. Flameless candles are also available.*

## Psalm 103

Bless God, my soul!

**All that is in me, bless God's holy Name!**

Bless God, my soul,

**and remember all God's kindnesses!**

The One who forgives all your sins

**is the One who heals all your diseases;**

the One who ransoms your life from the Pit

**is the One who crowns you with love and tenderness.**

The One who fills your years with prosperity

**also gives you an eagle's youthful energy.**

How you love justice, God!

**You are always on the side of the oppressed.**

You revealed your intentions to Moses,

**your deeds to Israel.**

You are tender and compassionate, God —

**slow to anger, and always loving;**

your indignation doesn't endure forever,

**and your anger lasts only for a short time.**

You never treat us as our sins deserve;

**you don't repay us in kind for the injustices we do.**

For as high as heaven is above the earth,

**so great is the love for those who revere you.**

Carol 'Silent Night' (ELW 281)

Dismissal

Song 'Joy to the World' (ELW 267) vs 1,2,4

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*Merry Christmas*

*From the pastor, staff and council of  
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church*