



**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
First Sunday of Christmas - December 26, 2021  
+ Service of Lessons and Carols - 10:30 am +  
Rev. Herbert C. Dolich, Pastor  
One Pastor, Many Ministers  
Lenna Harris- Music Director/Organist  
Tim Schomaker – Assisting Minister

**Introduction:** On the first Sunday of Christmas, we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a Savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

\*Congregation please stand

**Preludes:** "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" arr. by C. Barry  
"What Child Is This" arr. by Smith / Hustad Carol Frace & Lenna Harris

*Please stand as able*

\*Entrance Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City" ELW 269

**\*Dialogue**

P Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**C Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!**  
P I will hear what the Lord God has to say-  
**C A voice that speaks for peace.**  
P Peace for all faithful people  
**C and those who turn to Him in their hearts.**  
P God's help is near for those who fear him,  
**C that His glory may dwell in our land.**  
P Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**C Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.  
**C And also with you.**  
P Let us pray. Shine into our hearts the light of Your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of Your word, that in all things we may think and act according to Your good will and may live continually in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C Amen.**

*Please be seated*

Lessons and Carols

**Antiphon**

L O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High,  
**C pervading and permeating all creation, ordering all things with strength and delight: Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

**First Reading - Isaiah 40: 3-5**

**Diane Ricker**

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**Hymn: "All Earth Is Hopeful" Toda la Tierra**

ELW 266

**Antiphon**

L O Root of Jesse,

**C standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom earthly rulers will be silent and the nations bow in worship: Come quickly to deliver us.**

**Second Reading – Isaiah 11: 1-10**

**Marissa Reed**

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ELW 272**

## Antiphon

L Highest Wisdom, come.

**C You have spoken through the mouths of prophets;  
You, who have shown mercy to all, come.**

## Third Reading – Luke 1: 68-79 Suzanne Peterson

<sup>68</sup>“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.  
<sup>69</sup>He has raised up a mighty savior<sup>[a]</sup> for us  
in the house of his servant David,  
<sup>70</sup>as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
<sup>71</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.  
<sup>72</sup>Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us<sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,<sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
<sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
<sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon<sup>[b]</sup> us,  
<sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Hymn: “Christ, Be Our Light” ELW 715

## Antiphon

L O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting and sun of justice:

**C Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

## Fourth Reading – Luke 1: 26-35, 38 Richard Peterson

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>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<sup>[c]</sup> will be holy; he will be called Son of God.  
<sup>38</sup>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.

Hymn: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” ELW 265

## Antiphon

L O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, long awaited by the nations, and their Savior:

**C Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

## Fifth Reading – Luke 2: 1-16

Dave Meredith

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High" ELW 289

### Antiphon

L O God Among Us, come.

**C Great king, who gives the Law to gather nations nigh, O Lord our God, Redeemer, to save your children, come.**

## Sixth Reading – Luke 2: 21-35

Mike Riedinger

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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 <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Hymn: "Love Has Come" ELW 292

### Antiphon

L O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things:

**C Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

## Seventh Reading – Matthew 2: 1-11; 13-18

Sue Smith

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>13</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Hymn: "The First Noel" ELW 300

### Antiphon

L O Key of David, come. Unlock what none shall bind, and lock what none shall loose:

**C the captives in the darkness imprisoned, now set free**

## Eighth Reading – John 1: 1-14

Dana Schaffer

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.

Hymn: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" ELW 275

### \*The Sharing of Our Lord's Peace

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you**

Please share our Lord's Peace with one another.

*Please stand as you are able*

**\*Offertory**

"What Child is This" ELW 296 (verse 3 only)

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him,  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Please stand as you are able*

**\*Responsive Prayer**

P Our world stumbles blindly toward chaos-  
**C come, source of wisdom, and reveal Yourself to us.**  
P What we imagine to be strength is really weakness-  
**C come, mighty Lord, and fill us with Your true strength.**  
P We long for a standard to look up to-  
**C come, Root of Jesse, claim us as Your own.**  
P We languish in prisons of mind and spirit-  
**C come, Key of David, and set us free.**  
P The darkness grows thick around us-  
**C come, Light of light, and dawn upon us.**  
P We are scattered, lacking a sure leader-  
**C come, Prince of peace, and lead us.**  
P We need to know that God is with us-  
**C come, Emmanuel, and dwell in our hearts.**  
**C Amen.**

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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**

**\*Blessing and Dismissal**

P Let us bless the Lord.  
**C Thanks be to God.**  
P In our Savior Christ, God is with us..  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**C Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn: "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky" ELW 301**

Extinguishing of candles

Welcome & Announcements

\*Postlude - "Nativity Carol" D.F. Callender

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*May the God of hope fill you with all hope and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.  
(Romans 15:13)*

We are celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

We welcome all guests who worshipped with us today! Please introduce yourselves to the Pastor & sign our guest book.

Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God in Honor of our grandson, Grant's, 1<sup>st</sup> birthday by Stan and Sue Smith.

A special Thank You to everyone who made our Christmas Eve Services so special

~Please keep the following people in your daily prayers~

Richard Spangler, Rosie Lichner, Rhonda (Millheim) Fries, Tyrone Klump, Sr. (Tracy Riedinger's father), Dani Doll (father-in-law to Audra Doll), Bernadette Roeder (Anna Herb's sister), and Cindy Rissmiller.

**This Week at Hope**

Today - 12/26

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**Service of Word and Prayer - Lessons & Carols - 10:30 AM**

12/27 - Monday

Al-A-Non Group - 11:00 AM - Social Hall

12/28 - Tuesday

AA - 8:00 PM - Social Hall

12/29 - Wednesday

**Sr. Choir - 7:00 PM**

12/30 - Thursday

AA - 10:00 AM - Social Hall

AA Tatamy Women's Group - 6:30 PM

12/31 - Friday

AA, Al-A-Non - 7:30 PM

01/01 - Saturday

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

01/02 - Sunday

**Second Sunday of Christmas**

**Holy Communion - 10:30 AM**

**Birthdays this Week**

12/29 - William Dewey

12/30 - Daniel Dewey

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The 2022 offering envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex. If you have not yet picked up your envelopes, please do so today! If there are any questions, please see Joe Lichner. Please feel free to take envelopes to shut-ins.
2. All council members and chairpersons of church committees- please submit your 2021 year-end reports for the Congregational Annual Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The deadline for submitting reports is December 31, 2021. Thank you.

3. The 2022 sign-up sheets for Bulletins, Flowers, Lectors, etc. are posted. Get your special dates now! Bulletin & Flower sponsorship is still only \$20.00. Use the envelopes included with the offering envelopes.

*“Hope – An Anchor for the Soul”* Hebrews 6:19

**December 26, 2021**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**Obedience and Praise**

The act of praising God fairly leaps off the page in today’s readings. And hand in hand with that joyful response is the practice of obedience. They can seem to be opposing actions; we tend to think of praise as a spontaneous eruption of joy, while obedience puts us in mind of rules and limits that dampen our fun. In God’s world, though, obedience and praise are naturally joined.

The boy Samuel is in the temple because of a vow his mother, Hannah, made to God. It is her obedience that places him in that sacred space. And each year, Eli the priest blesses Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, praying for the formerly barren couple to have children. And they do!

In the gospel reading from Luke, the boy Jesus can also be found in the temple, after a frantic search by his parents. Mary and Joseph do not understand why he would be in the temple, and Jesus does not understand why his parents did not think to look there first: he is, after all, in his Father’s house because of obedience to his life’s work. After the misunderstanding, though, Jesus “went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart” (Luke 2:51). Mary too is full of praise as she sees her son’s obedience to his call and identity from God.

Far from being the fun-spoiler, obedience leads us to praise. When we let our words and actions point toward God, we will find reasons for praise on every side. And Paul’s words to the Colossians bring home the startling realization that obedience is our glad foundation: “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful” (Colossians 3:15). It turns out our greatest joy comes from following God’s guidance.

**Message from Pastor:**

St. Paul writes: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all.” (1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)

Lay ministry is an integral and essential part of church life; as a matter of fact, church (any church) would not be able to function without leaders like you.

To serve on the various committees is a noble and gratifying experience; in serving, you are examples of faith active in love, helping to maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

The council and I ask you to humbly consider serving this family of faith as a council member or on any other committee.

People of God, I ask you: are you willing to support this church and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

In Peace,

Pastor