

# The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement

*Serving God through the ELCA in the Metropolitan New York Synod*



*7:00 PM Worship Service*

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*Our prelude music is designed to help you and your neighbors to relax, settle in, and immerse yourselves in some quiet time with God before we begin our worship service.*

*This is also a good time to double check your portable devices to make sure they are on “mute.” We hope this prelude music will enhance your worship experience and bring peace to your soul.*

## Prelude

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

*During the gathering, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the name of God, using a trinitarian greeting.*

## Apostolic Greeting

**Pastor** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All** And also with you.

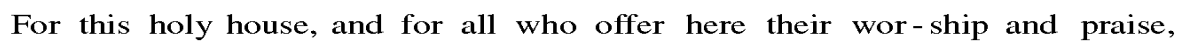
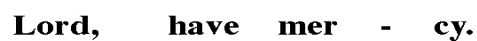
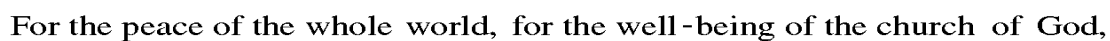
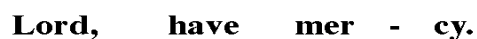
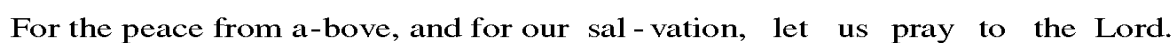


**Please Note: this worship service is being live-streamed.**

Please be aware that, by attending, you may appear on camera.

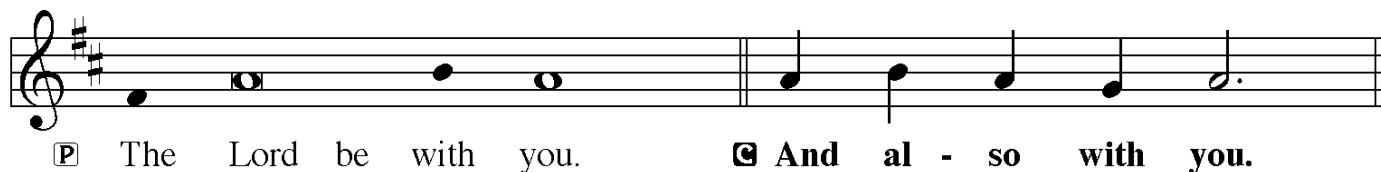
Footage will be posted on our church website and social media, such as YouTube. Additional hand-held photos or videos may be taken for use on our church website.

Kyrie  
Eleison



## Prayer of the Day

*The presiding minister gathers the congregation into prayer*



**Pastor**

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.

# A11

Amen

*The congregation is seated.*



# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

*The word of God is proclaimed within and by the gathered assembly. The first Bible reading is usually from the Old Testament. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church. We acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading. Preaching brings God's word of both law and gospel into our time and place, to awaken and nourish our faith.*

## First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

Reader     The word of the Lord.

All         Thanks be to God!

## Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

<sup>4</sup>...When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. <sup>7</sup>Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.

Reader     The word of the Lord.

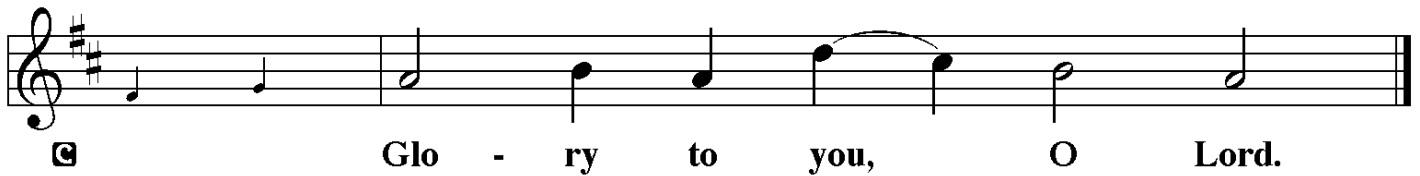
All         Thanks be to God!



*Please stand if you are able.*

## Gospel

**Pastor** The holy gospel according to Luke in the second chapter.

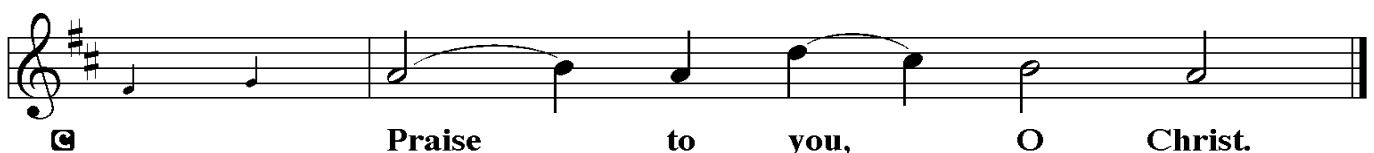


## Gospel

### Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Pastor** The gospel of the Lord.



*The congregation is seated*

## Sermon

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*God's word is further proclaimed as we sing and as we confess our faith with the whole church.  
After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to each other the gift of Christ's peace.*

*The congregation stands.*

Hymn of the Day

*Hark The Herald Angels Sing*

ELW 270



**Pastor** We express our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All** 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

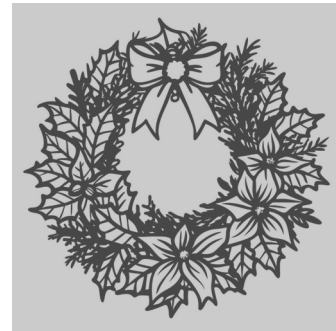
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

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

**Pastor** Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer prayers for a world in need.

*A brief silence. The leader continues with the petitions, and the congregation responds to each with:*

**Pastor** Lord, in your mercy,

**All** hear our prayer.

*The pastor concludes the prayers with:*

**Pastor** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your great mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All** Amen

## Sharing of the Peace

**Pastor** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All** And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say:*

**Response** Peace be with you.

*The congregation is seated*



## Announcements

*An offering is gathered and the table is set.*

## Offering

*During this section of worship, we offer our gifts of time, self, and possessions to the glory of God, and we celebrate the sacrament of the eucharist, where Christ comes to meet us at the table.*

*As the gifts are brought forward, the congregation stands.*

Offertory Hymn    *O Holy Night*    Cipriana Costello    arr. Adolphe Adam

Offering Prayer

A            Let us pray.

All            O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

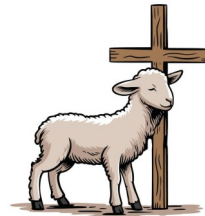
## Communion Instructions

*Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving.*

*The ministers will help you at the rail if necessary, and will bring communion to those unable to come forward. Please tell an usher of this need.*

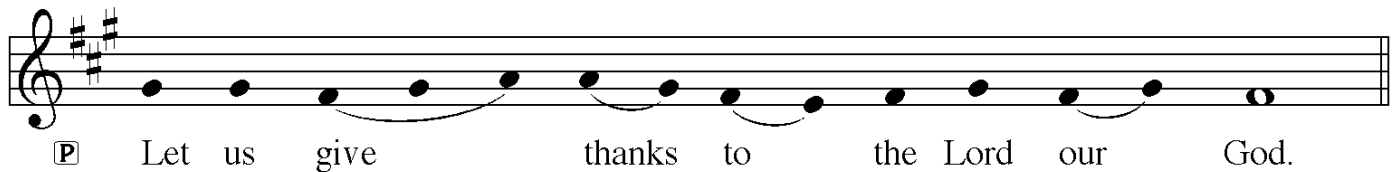
*Remember, people of all faiths are welcome at the Lord's Table!*

*You may also come forward for a prayer of blessing from our pastor.*



## Great Thanksgiving

*We sing responsively*



**Pastor** It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy ... and join their unending hymn:

**All** *(sung to the tune of ELW 275)*  
**Holy, Holy, Lord most holy,**  
**God of pow'r and God of might:**  
**Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.**  
**Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**  
**Blessed be the coming Savior.**  
**Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!**

**Pastor** Blessed are you, almighty and ever-living God. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. We give you thanks that you have gathered us into one through your Son, Jesus Christ, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**All** **Amen! We give you thanks and praise, O Lord!**

**Pastor** On 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity that we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, ✠ with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

**All** **Amen.**

**Pastor**      Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us boldly pray:

**All**            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

**Pastor**      Come to the table, where all are welcomed home.

**Lamb of God** (*Sung to the tune of I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, ELW 271* )

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of all the world away;  
You suffered death our lives to save:  
have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of all the world away;  
You set us free from guilt and grave,  
Have mercy now we pray.



O Lamb of God, you bear the sin  
of all the world away;  
Eternal peace with God you made:  
give us your peace, we pray.

## Communion Hymns

<i>Away in a Manger</i>	ELW 278
<i>The First Noel</i>	ELW 300
<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ELW 279
<i>What Child is This</i>	ELW 296
<i>Lo, How a Rose</i>	ELW 272

*After communion distribution is completed, the congregation stands.*

## Table Blessing

**Pastor**     The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All**            Amen.

## Post-Communion Canticle

*Love Has Come*            *ELW 292*

## Prayer After Communion

**A**            Let us pray.

God of all creation, all that you have made is good, and your love  
endures forever. Send your spirit with us now, that we may be united  
And transformed through the healing power of this gift of life, to serve  
you more fully by loving our neighbors more deeply.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All**            Amen.





## Candlelight Service



Candlelight Hymn

*Silent Night*

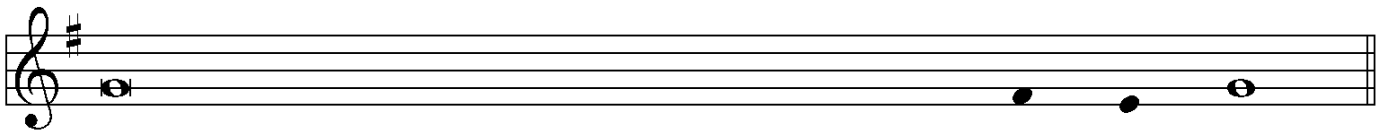
ELW 281

*Verses 1 and 2 will be sung in German by Cipriana Costello  
Followed by the congregation singing all verses in English*

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Benediction



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and . . . . . ✝ give you peace.



**G** A - men

Sending Hymn

*Joy to the World*

ELW 267

Dismissal

**Pastor** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world!  
Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**All** Thanks be to God!

Postlude



# The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement

*Serving God through the ELCA in the Metropolitan New York Synod*

100 Market Street  
Saugerties, NY 12477  
(845) 246-8322

Visit Our Website at: [www.atonement-saugerties.org](http://www.atonement-saugerties.org)

**Sunday Worship 9:00 AM**

**Sunday School 10:30 AM**

When you or someone you know is hospitalized or in need of emergency pastoral care:

**Rev. Jeffrey Koenig**, Coverage Pastor  
(845) 597-2901 (Cell)



Atonement Lutheran Church Est. 1859

Saugerties, NY