



CHRISTMAS IN JULY
July 13, 2025 at 10am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church & School
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD
www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude on “ADESTE FIDELES”
Eric Thiman (1900–1975)

WELCOME

INVOCATION

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A light shining in the darkness, in summer?

What could it be?

The sound of angels, in the summer?

What could it mean?

A baby born in a stable, in the summer?

Who could it be?

Come to Bethlehem and see.



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



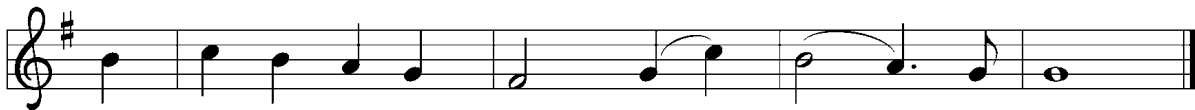
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER

O wondrous God of the sun and stars, we come with breathless wonder to see the babe who will change our lives, not born once, but year round in our hearts. We hear the names “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Prince of Peace,” and we are in awe. You have touched the earth with your unconditional love. Touch us—our hearts and minds and souls. May we never tire of this story. May we never take it for granted. Fill us with your hope and peace.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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 tramping 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

ELW 277 – Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

God saves us not because of what we do. Rather, God is a God of mercy and salvation who graciously cleanses us in baptism and renews our lives through the Holy Spirit.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior 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 Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

ELW 289 – Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. The glory of God is revealed to poor shepherds, who share the good news with others.

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room. Now in that same 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

Pastor Miller

*Following the please stand as you are able
for the following Carol.*



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

CHRISTMAS LITANY

Let us pray.

God of grace, the world looked for a great and mighty ruler

You gave us a vulnerable baby

God of might, the world looked for a grand king born of royalty

You gave us one born to a poor young girl

God of strength, the world looked among political leaders

You gave us Jesus, born among cattle and farm animals

God of power, the world looked for military victory

You blessed us with resurrection

God of love, the world sought riches

You gave us strength in gentleness

Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the love of your Son.

Jesus, born in our hearts, every day.

Comfort those whose burdens distract from the peace you give, victims of war, especially in Ukraine, Gaza and the middle east, victims of natural disaster, especially all in Central Texas experiencing devastating floods, those who mourn, the ill, the lonely.

Fill them with your hope.

Move us to seek your peace, recognize glory in lowly places, and live with gentleness and compassion.

Move us each day to be your followers.

Your ever present love is proclaimed in the faithful who have come before us, Mary, Joseph, all the saints in light. Send us forth as well, confident each day of your grace and love made known in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or place it in the offering plate, or use this QR code with your device to securely give your Offering.

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Arabesque No 1
Claude Debussy (1862-1918)

*The offering is received and is presented at the altar.
Please stand as you are able.*

OFFERING HYMN

ELW 302 – As with Gladness Men of Old

3. As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our hean'n-ly King.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

There are so many things to be thankful for, O God. Receive these tokens of our gratitude for your love incarnate in the babe of Bethlehem. May they become God-with-us for all the world. May they breathe your love back into a world that needs a sense of wonder and joy. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, for in 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,
santificado sea tu nombre,
venga a nosotros tu reino,
hagase tu voluntad,
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table
Come, see what God makes known for us.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

*All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.
Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.
(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)*

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen.***

AGNUS DEI

Setting Ten



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION CAROL

ELW 276 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig - il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.


POST COMMUNION CAROL

ELW 290 – Go Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, let us proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

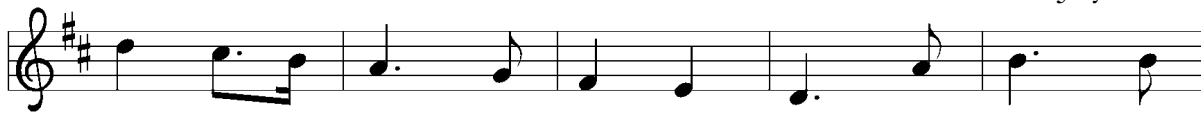
Amen.

BLESSING

Go to bring light to those who may not know light,
joy to those who may not know joy,
Let us go with the songs of angels within us.
Let us go and spread the word—the babe of Bethlehem is born for all each day in our hearts.
God the Father, the Son ✝ and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING CAROL

ELW 267 – Joy To The World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
Proclaim the Good News of Great Joy.
Thanks be to God.



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Gary Nuss
Support Pastor

Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

The Rev Richard Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

READER

Debbie VanBuskirk

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham
Director of Music

Lynne Yao, Piano
Offertory Music

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

JOY TO THE WORLD

TODAY

Food and Celebration after the worship service

Christmas Lunch: Christmas Hotdogs, Christmas hamburgers (Yes!), Bounce House, Crafts, Games, and many more Christmas specialties

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Today's Music:

ELW 283

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Music: attr. John Francis Wade

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

ELW 277

Away in a Manger

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

Tune: AWAY IN A MANGER

ELW 289

Angels We Have Heard on High

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Tune: GLORIA

ELW 270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr.

William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

ELW 302

As with Gladness Men of Old

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

Tune: DIX

ELW 276

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M.G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

Music: Polish carol

Tune: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

ELW 290

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: African American spiritual

Tune: GO TELL IT

ELW 267

Joy To The World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell

Mason, 1792-1872

Tune: ANTIOCH

Reformation Bells

Tuesdays from 7-9pm

Begins September 2, 2025

Schola Cantorum

Wednesdays from 7:30-9pm

Begins September 3, 2025

RSCM Choristers

Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm

Begins September 3, 2025

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

SUNDAY, July 13 – Christmas in July

8:30am Tech Rehearsal

10:00am Worship (Hybrid)

11:00am Summer Celebration

MONDAY, July 14

7:00pm Cub Scout Pack 249

TUESDAY, July 15

WEDNESDAY, July 16

7:00am Faith Connections (Zoom)

7:30pm AA

THURSDAY, July 17

7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)

FRIDAY, July 18

12:00pm Food Ministry

SATURDAY, July 19

9:30am Quilters

9:30am AA

11:00am Al-Anon

SUNDAY, July 20 – Pentecost 6C

8:30am Tech Rehearsal

10:00am Worship (Hybrid)

11:00am The Gathering

5:00pm Worship

6:00pm The Gathering

