



**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**Lessons and Carols**  
December 29, 2024



# Welcome to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you are here!

If you'd like more information about this community of faith, please fill out a Welcome card (found in the pew pockets near the hymnals) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Andrea or an usher following worship. Take the Grow card with you if you wish! We invite you to enjoy coffee and Bogart's Doughnuts in the Commons before worship and in the Lakeview Room following worship. Please leave your nametag on during the fellowship time.

## Children in Worship

Children are encouraged to be present for worship—build-your-own activity bags are located in the narthex, along with children's bulletins. Children are invited to use the Pray-Ground at the front of the sanctuary. A nursery is located on the lower level if you need it. Please ask an usher for directions. If you are a nursing parent, you are welcome to nurse anywhere. If you would like privacy, there is a nursing room in the nursery downstairs.

## Special Assistance

Hearing devices and large print bulletins are available. Please see the ushers for assistance.

## Participating in Today's Service

Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Assisting Minister: Cynthia Dickison

Acolyte: Lyle Dean

Readers: Kris Pearson, Graydon Royce

Communion Servers:

Ushers: Sean Laird, Kris Pearson

A/V Tech: John Nelson, Frank Anderson

Guest Pianist/Organist: David Miller

Nursery: Mary Teurman

Coffee Host: Sue Nelson

# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

## CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS with REFLECTIONS from MARTIN LUTHER

*The Messiah has finally come! We welcome the light of the Christ child. 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.*

*We invite those who are able to stand each time the † symbol appears.*

### PRELUDE

*What Child Is This*

arr. Dom Wyrzten

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### TRINITY CHIMES

### † GATHERING LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

P: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus,  
cradled in the arms of his mother.

C: **Seeing this wondrous sight,  
may our hearts be comforted  
and our spirits filled with peace.**

P: Come! Listen to choirs of angels  
announcing good news to all people.

C: **Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing:  
Glory to God in the highest!**

P: Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart,  
not as history but as a gift.

C: **Opening our hearts to this great mystery,  
may Christ be born in us today.**

### † GATHERING HYMN

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

#275

### † GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

## ‡ PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty God, you have filled the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace, empower us to reflect you light in all we do, through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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 in the guest room.

## REFLECTION: Martin Luther on the Birth of Jesus

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. . . . What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! . . . Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. . . . You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair.

Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to humankind than this, that Christ became human, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breast of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, p. 33)

## CAROL

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

#276

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

<sup>8</sup>Now in that same 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.

### **REFLECTION: Martin Luther on the Shepherds and Angels**

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. . . . This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, “Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?” I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: “Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition.”

But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of humanity. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why do such preposterous things? God puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, “Could not God have saved the world some other way?” (*Martin Luther’s Christmas Book*, pp. 36, 40)

### **CAROL**

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

#282, vs. 1-2

### **THIRD LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi 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 in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **REFLECTION: Martin Luther on Herod and the Wise Men**

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition.

If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king!

If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. . . . Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and mayflowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word. But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning.

At their report, Herod the king "was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? He had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. . . . Now Herod had a crafty plan. "The Jews," thought he, "will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape." So he called the scribes to him and said, "Where is Christ to be born?" Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 50-52)

**CAROL**

*The First Noel*

#300, vs. 1,3,4

## SERMON ON THE STEPS

### FOURTH LESSON

John 1:1-5, 14-18

<sup>1</sup> 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 overtake it.

<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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### REFLECTION: Martin Luther on the Word Made Flesh

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify humans. Inexpressible majesty will crush them. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and of God, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. . . . Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all humankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast.

This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 33, 16)

### CAROL

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

#295, vs. 1-3

### ‡ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: God of grace,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### ‡ SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

*You may share the peace with those around you.*

## DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH MATTERS TO ME

Cynthia Dickison

### OFFERING

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

arr. Teresa Wilhelmi

### **General Fund**

*We give thanks for all the ways members and friends of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church contribute to the mission and vision of this congregation - gifts of time, gifts of participation and expertise, as well as finances. Financial gifts to the general fund help to make possible both in-house and outreach ministries, as well as sharing of our resources with the wider community.*

### **December Mission of the Month: Sanctuary Supply Depot**

*Sanctuary Supply Depot is a Minneapolis-based mutual aid collective dedicated to collecting and distributing essential survival supplies to unhoused neighbors. Volunteers with Sanctuary Supply Depot listen to the needs of those living in the encampments and provide tents, tarps, fresh water, portable phone chargers, or even makeshift camp toilets. Donations are vital to helping Sanctuary Supply Depot keep people safe and alive in the harsh Minnesota weather.*

*A winter supply drive is also currently underway. The following items are being collected at Diamond Lake Lutheran and will be dropped off for distribution.*

- *Adult-sized clothing (new or used in good condition)*
- *Winter coats, snow pants, and boots in all sizes*
- *Socks*
- *Emergency blankets*
- *Hot hands/feet/body warmers*
- *All kinds of new batteries*
- *Lighters*

### **Give to the Mission of the Month**

*To make a financial gift to Sanctuary Supply Depot, you may write a check payable to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church with "Mission of the Month" in the memo line and drop in an offering plate. Alternately, you may visit "Give Back" page at [www.dllc.org](http://www.dllc.org) or scan the QR Code and choose "Mission of the Month" from the drop-down menu.*

*To contribute to either of these funds, use the QR code, visit <https://dllc.breezechms.com/give/online>*



## ‡ OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, vs. 1 & 4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## ‡ OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray.  
 God of heaven and earth,  
 from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
 in which you take delight.  
 The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.  
 Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
 that we may join the chorus of creation  
 to tell of your salvation from day to day.

C: Amen.

## ‡ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

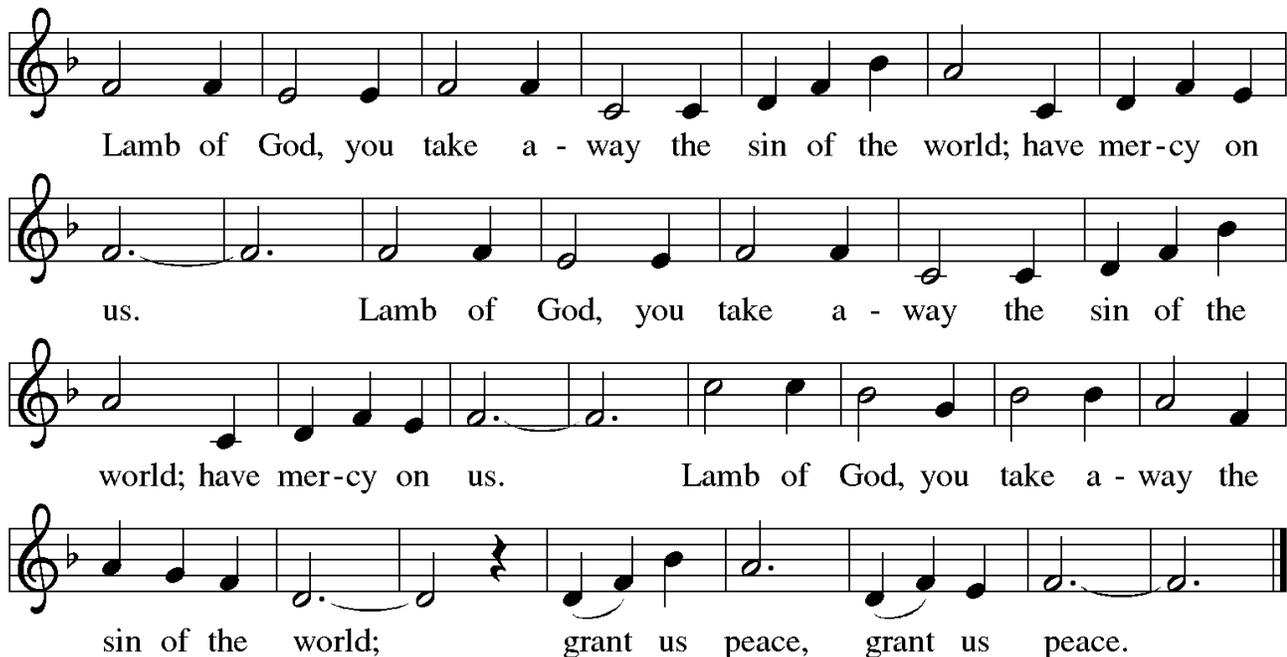
## ‡ LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.  
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

*As Christ offered himself without restriction to those gathered at the last supper, so too he invites all gathered here to partake in this meal. If you wish to receive the sacrament, come forward with your hands outstretched to receive the bread, and dip it either in the red wine or the white grape juice (both offered in each chalice).*

*If you wish to receive a blessing from the pastor instead, come forward with your hands over your heart.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request, and a chalice of grape juice is provided for gluten-free intinction. If it is difficult for you to come forward, please inform an usher, and the pastor will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Merciful God,  
 we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
 Strengthened by this goodness,  
 send us forth to announce your peace,  
 comfort the afflicted,  
 and share the good news of great joy.

C: **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****‡ BLESSING**

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth  
 carry you into new and abundant life.  
 May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms  
 enfold you with love and strength.  
 May the Word that angels proclaimed in song  
 bring harmony to our world.  
 And may the blessing of almighty God,  
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,  
 be upon you and remain with you always.

C: **Amen.**

**‡ SENDING HYMN**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

#289

**‡ DISMISSAL**

L: Glory to God in the highest!

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

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

arr. Bill Wolaver

*Luther's reflections are drawn from Martin Luther's Christmas Book as translated and edited by Roland H. Bainton, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017. Original edition copyright 1948 W. L. Jenkins. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press.*

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*We acknowledge that we gather as Diamond Lake Lutheran Church  
on the traditional land of the Wahpekute band of the Santee division  
of the Dakota people past and present.*

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***Our mission: Stirred by the Spirit of Christ to learn, follow, and serve.***

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