

Glory TO  
God  
IN  
heaven,  
AND ON EARTH  
peace  
AMONG THOSE  
WHOM HE FAVORS.

LUKE 2:14

*Christmas Day*  
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
*Christmas according to St. John*  
December 25, 2023



† PREPARATION †

WELCOME

*Stand*

OPENING HYMN            *O Come, All Ye Faithful*            LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him  
Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

*Refrain*

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!

- 2 Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: *Refrain*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

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**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed Lord, long ago You spoke through the voices of men to proclaim Your promise. Now You have spoken through Your Son, the Word made flesh. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe the living voice that bestows upon us the fullness of Your promises, once for all; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives in unity with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Recalling our sin and God's mercy, let us examine our lives and consciences.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You, O Lord, for all my sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and I mattered most. Your name I have not honored and my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am sorry for all my sins and plead for Your mercy in Christ Jesus. Graciously forgive me all my sins and help me amend my sinful life. Amen.**

Pastor: God be merciful and strengthen your faith. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord **†** be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Sit*

**† WORD †**

## OLD TESTAMENT

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

LSB 388

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. *Refrain.*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger  
The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

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EPISTLE

**Hebrews 1:1-6**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?  
Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?  
And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”
- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”
- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

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*Stand*

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.  
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON HYMN      *Angels We Have Heard on High*      LSB 368**

- 1   Angels we have heard on high,  
    Sweety singing o'er the plains,  
    And the mountains in reply,  
    Echoing their joyous strains.  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 2   Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
    Why your joyous strains prolong?  
    What the gladsome tidings be  
    Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 3   Come to Bethlehem and see  
    Him whose birth the angels sing;  
    Come, adore on bended knee  
    Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
    Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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**SERMON      “Christmas according to St. John”**  
**Text: John 1:1-14**

*Stand*

#### **NICENE CREED**

**People:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For holy joy to greet the Word made flesh in Christ's saving birth and for the confidence to hold fast to this faith and to proclaim this Good News with speedy feet and bold witness to the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Pastor:** For ears to hear the voice of the Word, for wisdom to heed the Word of the prophets that point to Christ, for confidence in the power of this Word to deliver to us what it says in the forgiveness of sins, the gift of new life, communion restored with our heavenly Father, and the peace of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For blessing upon the Church gathered around the living Word, for those who proclaim this Word and teach it to us, for the missionary who brings it to those who have not yet heard, and for families who impart this Word and faith to their children, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace in a world that knows no peace, for justice for the oppressed, for protection for the weakest—especially the unborn, for the punishment of evildoers and the promotion of virtue here and through our nation and for every people, let us pray of the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the visible Word of bread that is Christ's body and wine that is His blood, for those who will receive this Holy Food this day, for our unity in faith and the strengthening of our fellowship together in the Body of Christ, the Church, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the wounded in body or spirit, those grieving loved ones, the aged and the infirm, [*including . . .*], that they may call upon the Lord in their trouble and enjoy His ever-present mercy to heal them according to His will, sustain them in patience, and deliver them at last to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the faithful who went before us, who died in faith and now live in Christ, that we may not waver in the face of temptation nor succumb to doubt, but endure in faith to the day when Christ comes in His glory to bring to completion His new creation and bring us and all the faithful to the marriage supper of the Lamb in His kingdom that has no end, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, O Lord. For these and all things needful for this body and life, let us pray with confidence in the name of the Word made flesh, our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and honor with the Father and the Spirit, now and to the end of the ages.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

## TITHES AND OFFERING

Please fill out a **Welcome-Worship Registration Card** (in the pew rack) and place it in the offering plate. Please read and fill out the Communion Registration side of this card if you will be partaking of the Lord's Supper.

## MUSICAL OFFERING

**CHOIR SINGS**    *O come O come on Christmas Day*

*Stand*

## † SACRAMENT †

### PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

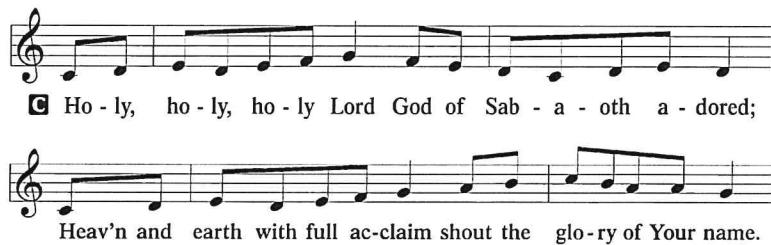
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

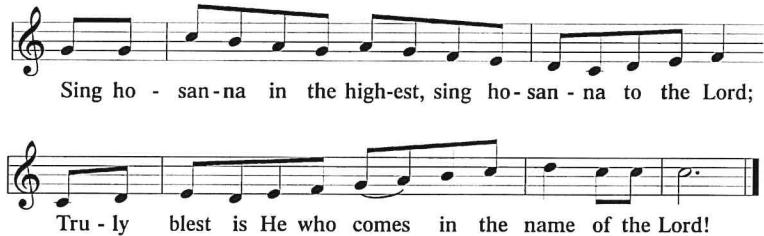
### PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly our joy and delight, our purpose and our duty, to rejoice in the wonder of this day, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, and in the promise of glory that sin and death cannot overcome. Give us this glory now and always, that we may rejoice in what the Word made flesh has accomplished and enjoy the riches of His mercy in the salvation of our souls. Now, with all the host of heaven and with the faithful throughout the earth, with angels and archangels to lead our praises, let us evermore rejoice in singing Your praise:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word. In the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

People: Amen.

### WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My <sup>†</sup> body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My <sup>†</sup> blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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.**

**THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

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

People: Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

### **DISTRIBUTION**

Regarding our Holy Communion practices this morning:

- We ask that you who are communicant Lutherans prepare to receive the Lord's Supper by reading the Communion Registration side of our Welcome-Worship Registration Card. If communing, please sign both sides of the card and either hand it to an usher when you go up to commune or place it in the collection plate during the Offering.
- The consecrated wine may be received by common cup (the chalice) or individual chalices. **White grape juice is provided in the chalices in the inner circle of the tray for those who are unable to consume wine.**
- If you are unable to come to the altar rail for Communion, please let the usher know, and Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

*Away in a Manger*

*LSB 364*

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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*Stand*

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. What we have received in our ears and upon our lips, O Lord, keep within us in faithful hearts, that the joy of Christ's birth may sustain us through the journey of this mortal life and His gifts equip us through forgiveness for the everlasting life that is to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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  $\ddagger$  give you peace.  
People: Amen.

## HYMN

### *Joy to the World*

*LSB 387*

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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*Sit*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

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**+ Serving You Today +**

<i>Preacher &amp; Celebrant</i>	<i>Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor</i>
<i>Assisting Elder</i>	<i>Stanley Tom</i>
<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Amy Kao</i>
<i>Lectors</i>	<i>Alex &amp; Lucy Lew</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Rich &amp; Terry Hesselroth, Beverly Gerard</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Darlene Hartman, Virginia Ferry, Gerda Beisel</i>

**V**isitors, welcome! Thank you for being with us this Holy Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord. Please sign our Guest Book in the Narthex entrance and do come and join us again in worship of the Blessed Triune God. Merry Christmas!

**T**he Chancel Flowers for today are given to the glory of God by **Carolyn and Jack Landgrebe and Margaret Finley** in loving memory of Carolyn and Margaret's parents, **Robert and Frieda Thomson**, and in loving memory of **Jim Finley**, beloved husband, father, and grandfather. *"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1*

**C**hristmas Poinsettias that adorn our Church this Christmas Eve and Day are given to the glory of God for the great gift of His love, Jesus Christ, by the following:

**Pastor & Stacey Binz**

In loving memory of Michele Cottle - Stacey's sister and Sarann Cordoni - Stacey's Aunt

**Vivian Char**

In loving memory of Ben Char

**Rudy & Gail Frey**

To the glory of God

**Ernestine Gutter**

In honor of Ruth Stresow and Elaine Mills

**Darlene Hartman**

In honor of the honorary members of the Altar Guild - Vivian Char and Janice Mason

**Rich & Terry Hesselroth**

In memory of Gene & Martha Mize and Marcia Hesselroth

**Ray & Kathy Holstead**

In loving memory of our parents, Kristin Hyde-DeKlever, John Hyde, Emily Benson, Marie Louise Benson, Emily Keeley, and Ken Diercks

**Jing Li**

In honor of Pastor Binz

**Bill & Nita Luekeman**

In memory of Marlene Hewison, Bill's sister

**Patrick & Grace Man**

In memory of Theresa Jeung - Patrick's sister and Bik May Yeung - Joshua's mother-in-law

**Vicki, Karen, Tiffany, Bryan and Becky Proehl**

In memory of Ed Proehl, Steven Kittilsby, Glenn & Marge Kittilsby, and Frank & Doris Gelini

**Vicki, Bryan and Becky Proehl**

In memory of Becky's sister Jenny Herbert

**John Rixe**

In memory of Art Frese

**Rhonda Short**

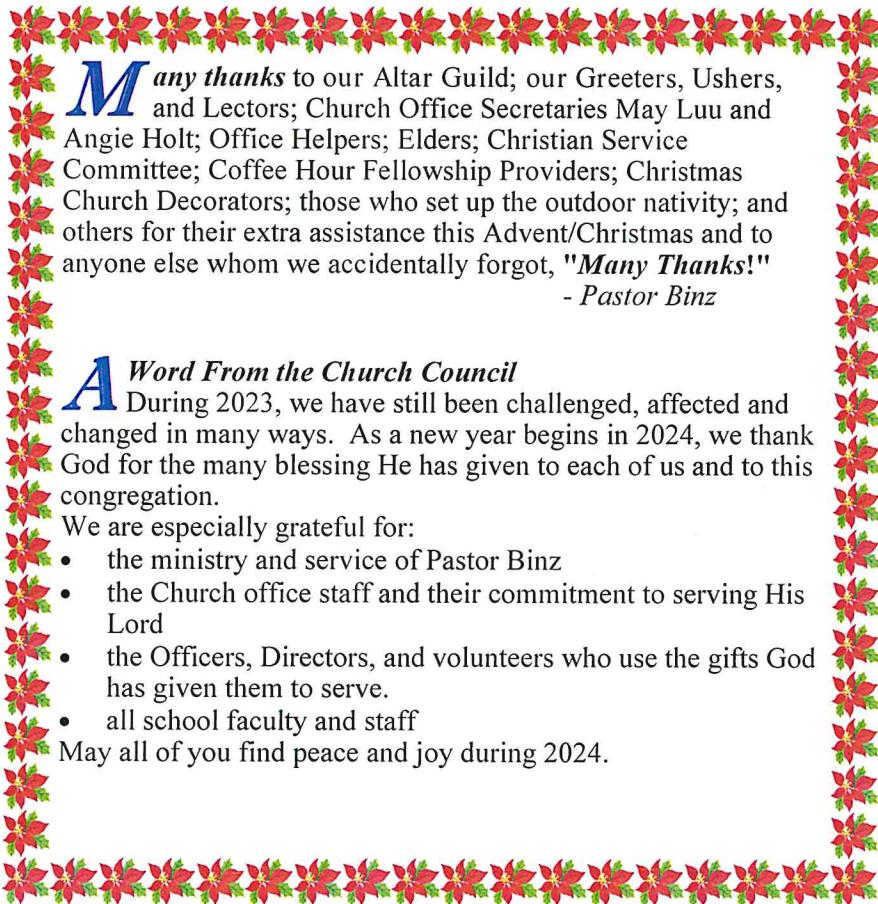
In honor of Darlene Hartman and the Altar Guild Ladies

**The Stranahan Family**

In memory of Ann Stranahan, Ed & Mary Sales, and Darlene Lau. Peace to the world

**Tom and Georgeanne Wedergren**

In memory of our parents



**M**any thanks to our Altar Guild; our Greeters, Ushers, and Lectors; Church Office Secretaries May Luu and Angie Holt; Office Helpers; Elders; Christian Service Committee; Coffee Hour Fellowship Providers; Christmas Church Decorators; those who set up the outdoor nativity; and others for their extra assistance this Advent/Christmas and to anyone else whom we accidentally forgot, **"Many Thanks!"**

- Pastor Binz

**A** *Word From the Church Council*

During 2023, we have still been challenged, affected and changed in many ways. As a new year begins in 2024, we thank God for the many blessing He has given to each of us and to this congregation.

We are especially grateful for:

- the ministry and service of Pastor Binz
- the Church office staff and their commitment to serving His Lord
- the Officers, Directors, and volunteers who use the gifts God has given them to serve.
- all school faculty and staff

May all of you find peace and joy during 2024.

**T**he Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, December 26 and Monday, January 1.

**PLEASE NOTE OUR WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEKEND**

**SATURDAY**

12/30/2023 NO WORSHIP SERVICE THIS SATURDAY.

**SUNDAY**

12/31/2023 WORSHIP SERVICE THIS SUNDAY.  
10:00AM Divine Service-Lord's Supper

**MONDAY**

1/1/24 New Year's Day No Service

We will resume our regularly scheduled weekend worship times  
on January 6th and 7th.

**Y**our tithes and offerings support the mission and ministries of West Portal Lutheran Church. If you wish to make an online donation, please use the QR code below. PayPal deducts a small fee from these donations, or you may add a nominal amount to your donation by checking the box to help cover the fees.



## West Portal Lutheran Church & School



200 Sloat Blvd, San Francisco CA 94132  
Church Phone: 415-661-0242  
School Phone: 415-665-6330  
Church Website: [www.westportallutheran.org](http://www.westportallutheran.org)  
School Website: [www.wplsf.com](http://www.wplsf.com)

### Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00PM Sunday, 10:00AM

### Sunday School, Adult Bible Classes

Sunday, 9:00AM

The Rev. Curtis Binz,  
Senior Pastor  
[pastorbinz@wplsf.com](mailto:pastorbinz@wplsf.com)  
707-479-6407

Sherise Lee,  
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*Christmas Day*  
12/25/23  
10:00AM