



*Christmas Eve, 5:00PM and 7:00 PM
December 24, 2024*

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Stand

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

PSALMODY

Psalm 110:1-4

- P** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
C The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.
Rule in the midst of your enemies!
- P** Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.
C The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,
"You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sit

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.

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READINGS

Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

[P] A reading from Isaiah, chapter 7.

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

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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Reading

1 John 4:7-16

P A reading from 1 John, chapter 4.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C Thanks be to God.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

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Reading**Matthew 1:18-25**

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 1.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory**LSB 230**

P Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.

P Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

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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SERMON

5:00 PM

**“In This Is Love”
 Text: 1 John 4:7-16**

Pastor Swenson

7:00 PM

**“In The Fullness of Time”
 Text: Matthew 1:18-25**

Pastor Binz

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold:
 “Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
 From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 To hear the angels sing.

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

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TITHES AND OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

7:00 PM CHOIR SINGS *Love Is Born*

Stand

PRAYER

Kyrie

☐ Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Collects

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer,
C and let my cry come to you.

Collect of the Day

- P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Collect

- P** O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Benedicamus

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
C Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

(The pastor takes the light from the Christ candle and gives it to the ushers. They pass the light on to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle. Do not tip the lighted candle to avoid dripping the wax! Hold the candles straight up and the wax will not drip. Please return your candle to the ushers as you exit the Sanctuary. Thank you.)

Silent Night, Holy Night

LSB 363

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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After the hymn, you may carefully extinguish candles.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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+ Serving You Tonight +

Preacher 5:00 pm	<i>Rev. Jacob Swenson, Associate Pastor</i>
Liturgist 5:00 pm	<i>Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor</i>
Preacher 7:00 pm	<i>Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor</i>
Liturgist 7:00 pm	<i>Rev. Jacob Swenson, Associate Pastor</i>
Organist	<i>Amy Kao</i>
Ushers 5:00 pm	<i>Hiroaki Murata & Megumi Amano,</i>
	<i>Rhonda Short</i>
Ushers 7:00 pm	<i>Donald Woo, David Garrett,</i>
	<i>Ron Soper</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Gerda Beisel, Jing Li, Rhonda Short</i>

Visitors, welcome! Thank you for being with us this Holy Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord. Please come and join us again in worship of the Blessed Triune God. Merry Christmas!

The Chancel Flowers and the white poinsettias are given to the glory of God by **Guthrie, Twomey and Crouse Families** in memory of Margaret and Jim Finley, Jr, beloved parents; Frieda and Robert Thomson; James Sr. and Evelyn Finley; Priscilla, Ben and Barry Mathis; and in honor of WPL Church and School staff and families. *"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1*

Your 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.



Christmas 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:

Brigitta Ammann

In loving memory of my brother Hans

Gerda Beisel & Family

In loving memory of Julius Beisel

Pastor & Stacey Binz

In loving memory of Stacey's sister - Michele Cottle

Bob & Helen Bok

In memory of Douglas & Matthew Tom, Rev. Wilbert & Martha Bok and Margaret Finley

Earl Lene De Santiago

In memory of Margaret Finley

The Dye and Willis Families

In memory of Bud and Mary Ellen Ginther, Lottie & Blaine Ginther, Bill & Cecil Vance, Donald Dye & Alberta Hawkins

Rudy & Gail Frey

In praise to God

Darlene Hartman

To honor the Women of the WPL Quilters

Terry Hesselroth

In memory of Rich Hesselroth, Gene & Martha Mize and Marcia Hesselroth

Ray & Kathy Holstead

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

Bill & Nita Luebke

In memory of Bill & Pui Gee, Nita's parents and Marlene Hewison, Bill's sister

Patrick & Grace Man

In memory of Bik May Yeung & Theresa Jeung

The Presley-Nelsons

For the Blessing of Family

The Proehls - Vicki, Karen, Tiffany, Kenny, Bryan & Becky

In memory of Ed, Steven, Glenn & Marge, Doris & Frank

John Rixe

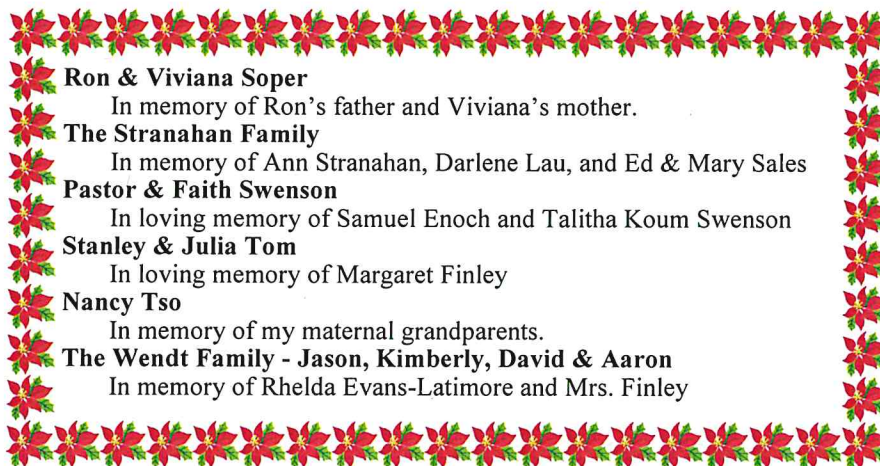
In memory of Jan Lundquist

Rhonda Short

In memory of my aunt Marie Beatty and my parents Richard & Amelia Short

Carol Slettvedt

In memory of my Gammy - grandmother.



Ron & Viviana Soper

In memory of Ron's father and Viviana's mother.

The Stranahan Family

In memory of Ann Stranahan, Darlene Lau, and Ed & Mary Sales

Pastor & Faith Swenson

In loving memory of Samuel Enoch and Talitha Koum Swenson

Stanley & Julia Tom

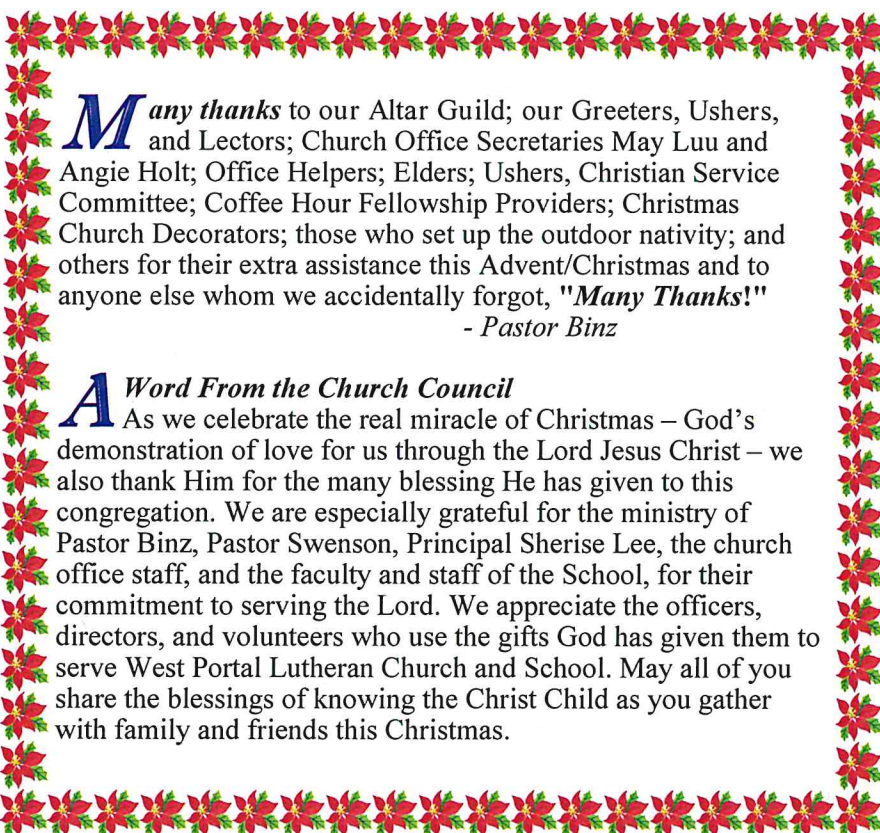
In loving memory of Margaret Finley

Nancy Tso

In memory of my maternal grandparents.

The Wendt Family - Jason, Kimberly, David & Aaron

In memory of Rhelda Evans-Latimore and Mrs. Finley



Many thanks to our Altar Guild; our Greeters, Ushers, and Lectors; Church Office Secretaries May Luu and Angie Holt; Office Helpers; Elders; Ushers, 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

As we celebrate the real miracle of Christmas – God's demonstration of love for us through the Lord Jesus Christ – we also thank Him for the many blessing He has given to this congregation. We are especially grateful for the ministry of Pastor Binz, Pastor Swenson, Principal Sherise Lee, the church office staff, and the faculty and staff of the School, for their commitment to serving the Lord. We appreciate the officers, directors, and volunteers who use the gifts God has given them to serve West Portal Lutheran Church and School. May all of you share the blessings of knowing the Christ Child as you gather with family and friends this Christmas.



***T**he Church Office* will be closed on Thursday and Friday,
December 26 and 27, and Wednesday January 1.

West Portal Lutheran
Church & School

Worship Services

Saturday, 5:00PM

Sunday, 10:00AM

Bible Classes

Wednesday, 11:00AM

Sunday, 9:00AM

CHURCH

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westportallutheran.org

SCHOOL

Sloat Campus

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415-665-6330

Sunset Campus

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San Francisco CA 94122

415-731-3000

www.wplsfc.com

Rev. Curtis Binz,
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jacob Swenson,
Associate Pastor

Ms. Sherise Lee,
Principal

Mrs. Sherilyn Jew,
*Assistant to the Principal-
Teaching, Learning, Curriculum*

Ms. Amy Kao
Music Director

Christmas Eve

12/24/24

5:00PM and 7:00PM