

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Service of the Word  
Prelude and Welcome

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**  
Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*  
God of life,  
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,**  
**and call us to be messengers of your peace.**  
**We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.**  
**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**  
**We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.**  
**Have mercy on us.**  
**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**  
**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**  
**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**  
**Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
In+ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**  
From Sundays & Seasons, © 2021 Augsburg Fortress.

Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Greeting .....Page 203  
Prayer of the Day

WORD

First Lesson .....Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19  
*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will  
bruise the serpent’s head.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Second Lesson .....Genesis 22:15-18  
*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the  
earth be blessed.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Third Lesson .....Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Fourth Lesson .....Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9  
*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Fifth Lesson .....Luke 1:26-35, 38  
*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Sixth Lesson .....Luke 2:1, 3-7  
*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Seventh Lesson .....Luke 2:8-16  
*The shepherds go to the manger.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Eighth Lesson .....Matthew 2:1-12  
*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Ninth Lesson .....John 1:1-14  
*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*  
Favourite Christmas Hymn  
Sharing of the Peace

MEAL

Offering Prayer, read in unison  
God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts  
with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen  
us to share with all the world the abundance of our grace upon grace, poured out  
in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.  
Thanksgiving for the Word .....Page 220  
The Lord’s Prayer .....Page 221

SENDING

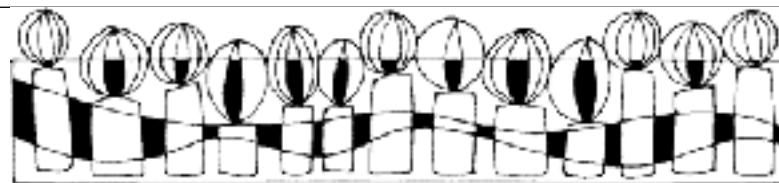
Blessing  
Sending Song .....299 Cold December Flies Away  
Dismissal: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**  
**St. Matthew’s wishes you a very blessed and joyous Christmas and prays that  
these twelve days of Christmas bring you peace and health in 2024.**

Dates to Remember

Jan 7 10:00 a.m. – Coffee Hour before the worship service at 11:00 a.m.  
 Jan 14 Church Council Meeting after the service  
 Jan 21 “Beat the Winter Blahs” Soup Lunch following the worship service.  
 Feb 4 Annual Meeting, please have all reports submitted by Jan 14.

*Thank You...*

First Lutheran thanks everyone who contributed to their recent Sock Drive. They collected 245 pairs of socks that were well received in their community.



## Lessons and Carols; December 31, 2023

“O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men, women, and children everywhere love you and serve you in peace.” As you listen and worship during Lessons and Carols, occasionally contemplate that this simple service offers an expression of hope that despite the mess that humans have made of our world, God has a plan of redemption for it.

From <https://anglicancompass.com/nine-lessons-and-carols-a-rookie-anglican-guide/>

“In response to God’s love, St. Matthew’s is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone.”

## Welcome!

Thank you for worshipping with us on this Christmas Season and we hope our worship will be a blessing to you. wish you all a joyous Christmas. May the Lord bless you throughout the twelve days of Christmas and the New Year! Thank you to our readers, and to Jenn Rusk for leading our worship.

## Flowers

The Christmas flowers are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by:

Inge Poetzinger in loving memory of her husband, **Gerhard Poetzinger**  
 The Speck, Lane and Giampaolo families in memory of **Leila Stortz**

**If you missed last week’s sermon, it is available on our website.**

## St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church



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