

Lessons & Carols



Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, December 28, 2025
First Sunday of Christmas
Lessons & Carols

*To all who are lonely and need fellowship; to all who are discouraged and need good news; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who are tempted and need help; to all who are sinners and need forgiveness; to all who are complacent and need disturbing; to all who thirst for the water of life; to all who love Christ and would follow Christ, Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church opens its arms and bids you **welcome!***

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Dialogue: (Based on Hebrews 1:1-3)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,
but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things,
through whom he also created the worlds.

He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

Gathering Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High (#289)

Dialogue

Who are these angels who come to earth,
Bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

Who are these shepherds who run to see?
And worship the babe on bended knee?

Who is this child, so small, so slight,
of whom the angels sang that night?

Who are these old ones who've waited so long
And, at his sight, burst into song?

Who are these wise men come from afar,
discerning God's message to follow the star?

Who is this king, a manger his throne,
who humbles himself to make us his own?

Who is this God who sends a Son
into our midst, the promised one?

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the offspring of woman shall bruise the serpent's head
Genesis 3: 8-15

[The man and woman] heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat

all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (#283)

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah and the peace that Christ will bring is foreshown
Isaiah 9: 2-7

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.

Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (#288)

The Old Testament reading for Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Joy to the World (#267)

The birth of Jesus as told by Matthew
Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: What Child Is This (#296)

The shepherds hear the good news and respond
Luke 2:8-16

In that 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.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: The First Noel (#300)

An aged man and woman who have waited to see the Christ and finally meet him

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Away in a Manger (#277)

God leads foreigners to the Christ by the light of a star

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'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.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem (#279)

PRAYER

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Offering

At this time an offering is collected to support the ongoing ministries of the church.

Offering Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night (#281)

Offering Prayer

God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

SENDING

Blessing

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
☩ bless you with endless race, peace, and joy.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#270)*

Dismissal

The worship has ended, let the service begin.
Glory to God in the highest!
 And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<u>Ministers:</u>	The Congregation
<u>Pastor:</u>	Reverend Anthony Pagotto
<u>Ushers:</u>	Everett Team
<u>Lector:</u>	Rich DeLuca
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Jaxson Markell

Worship participants for next week, January 4, 2026:

<u>Ushers:</u>	Frey Team
<u>Acolytes:</u>	Bryn Schleicher Colby Solt
<u>Lector:</u>	Kirsten Frankhouser
<u>Communion Assistants:</u>	Carol Steber Kurt Steigerwalt

CONGREGATION LEADERS

<u>Council President:</u>	Rich DeLuca
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Kelli DeLuca
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Laura Moyer
<u>Office Administrator:</u>	Jan Schwartz
<u>Sexton:</u>	David Arndt

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
2. Shepherds, why this joyful noise? Why your joyous strains prolong?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
What the glad-some tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Refrain

Gloria

in excelsis Deo

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus* (1864).
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1908.

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

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 heavy - 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

Ye - 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 - - ni - sum, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakley, 1802–1889, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866
Music: EN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

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

and heav'n and na - ture sing. and
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.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Music: ANTILOC, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1793-1872

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

The First Noel

Text: English traditional
 Music: THE FIRST NOELLE, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1900

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Away in a Manger



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, 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 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.



Text: North American, 19th cent.
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-dring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

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Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*

1 Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläf - .
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Moltz, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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 - ell!
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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: MENDELSSOHN; Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

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