



anker ed

FØROYAR
Joh. 1, 14
2000 6,00

*As a community following Christ,
we LOVE with an open heart,
GROW with a curious mind,
and SHARE with a generous spirit.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

- *Please turn off all cell phones.*
- *If you are visiting with us today, we extend to you a particular welcome and invite your questions and comments.*
- *Our entire worship service is printed in this worship folder for your convenience.*
- *Hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.*
- *Child care is available for children ages 5 years and under in the Child Care Area, across from the Life Together Hall.*

In the order of service, the words
that are spoken by a leader are in regular type.

Words spoken by the assembly are in boldface type.

SECOND SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS

Sunday, January 4, 2026 • 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins,
for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

Kneel or remain standing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love and compassion,
you have come into the world
and we have not yet recognized you.**

**Forgive our lack of insight
and open our eyes to see you hear and now,
that we may receive your grace
through Jesus our Christ.**

Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news of your salvation:
God freely bestows God's grace on us through Jesus Christ.

In Christ we receive redemption and forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of the grace that God lavishes on us.

So be reconciled to God and one another.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • "WHEN LONG BEFORE TIME"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 861



1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,
and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—

GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE • “WHEN LONG BEFORE TIME”

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 861



2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,



and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,



and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,



and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Giving God, you have adopted us as your children,
siblings of your beloved, Jesus Christ.

Empower us to be holy and blameless witnesses
to your glorious reign of peace and love now come into this world.

Amen.

READING

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ (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.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ 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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON + SERMON

Stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY • “WHEN A STAR IS SHINING”

All Creation Sings 915

Congregation: refrain; cantor verses.



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver cast - ern hills,
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
where a voice for - got - ten cries, “Pre - pare the way!”
guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,
show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

CREED

Together, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

At the conclusion of each petition:

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Sit.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

From God's generous mercy we have all received
grace upon grace.

Therefore let us give in gratitude
for our lives and our inheritance
as part of the family of Christ.

You can participate in the Offering electronically
by scanning the QR code and filling out the online form.



OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE • "WHEN LONG BEFORE TIME"

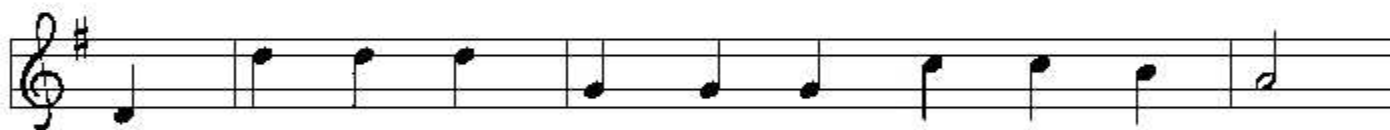
Evangelical Lutheran Worship 861



3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,
4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long
our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION

We are here because Jesus has called us—
strangers and friends, locals and visitors,
believers and doubters, the certain and the curious.

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites to his table where, in bread and wine,
he meets us and through him, we are joined to each other.

So come,
not because you understand,
but because you are understood.

Come,
not because of how you feel,
but because God has food for you.

Come,
not because you deserve a place,
but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.

If you need an alcohol-free element or a gluten-free element, then please
let your server know.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, then please let an
usher know and you will be served where you are seated.

COMMUNION HYMN • "WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 479



- 1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
- 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
- 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

COMMUNION HYMN • "WORD OF GOD, COME DOWN ON EARTH"

Evangelical Lutheran Worship 510



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

**May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.**

**Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.**

Amen.

DEACON SENDING

Deacons are called to “make Christ
and his redemptive love known by word and example.” (1 Timothy)

Such love is expressed in the extension of Holy Communion
to those who are homebound or hospitalized.

Gracious God,

**as Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her
son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament
with our sisters and brothers who are sick or homebound. In
your love and care, nourish those to whom we bring this
communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we
may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God who turns our mourning into joy
comfort you with the presence of the Holy Spirit
and lead you forth into the incarnation of your own lives.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • "MOURNING INTO DANCING"

Worship & Praise 99

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings. The lyrics are written below the staff, and the piece concludes with a 'D.C. al fine' instruction.

You've turned my mourn - ing in - to danc - ing a - gain, you've
lift - ed my sor - rows; and I can't stay si -
- lent, I must sing, for your joy has come. *Fine*
Where there once was on - ly hurt, you
gave your heal - ing hand; where there
once was on - ly pain, you brought com - fort like a friend.
And I feel the sweet - ness of your love pierc - ing my
dark - ness; and I see the bright and morn - ing sun
as it ush - ers in your joy - ful glad - ness. *D.C. al fine*

SENDING

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

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ADULT EDUCATION

9:30 a.m. in the Life Together Hall

- 1/4 = Pastor Eric previews the themes in the Gospel of Matthew that we will encounter during 2026 worship services.
- 1/11 = Mission Endowment Fund "ministry fair" to meet and experience the 18 projects of our MEF grant recipients.
- 1/18 = Fred and Meleney Albert lead an interactive learning experience regarding their trip to visit Border Servant Corps.
- 1/25 = Jason Cornell and Jon Edmonds teach expanded ways to support the mission/ministry of MVLC through required minimum distributions, donor advised funds, Thrivent Choide Dollars, and Thrivent Action Grants.
- 2/1 = Brooke Nelson presents on her time in Argentina with ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission.
- 2/8 = Pancake breakfast hosted by MVLC-chartered Scouting USA units.

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Worship leaders include:

PREACHER: Pastor Eric Bostrom.

PRESIDERS: Pastor Eric Bostrom, Pastor Andrew Conley-Holcom.

ASSISTING MINISTER: Ken Swanson.

DIRECTOR of MUSIC: Amy Boers.

VIDEOGRAPHER: David Burch.

ALTAR GUILD: Corie Adams/Sandall, Janet Larson, Diana Smith, Sandi Swanson.

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