

# Christmas Day

25 December 2024



## HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4111340591> PW: highwood

Zoom by Telephone Dial: 1-587-328-1099

Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode:592794 #

Organist's Blog: <https://highwoodorganist.wordpress.com>

Organist: Rick Vander Woude

Secretary: Liz Northam

+ **HOLY COMMUNION – SETTING FOUR** +

Organ Prelude *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming arr. J. Brahms*

Announcements

Gathering Hymn	O Come, All Ye Faithful	<b>No. 283</b>
Greeting		Pg. 147
Kyrie	“	Pg. 147
Glory to God		Pg. 148

Prayer of the Day

P We pray.

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**The Proclamation of The Word**

**First Lesson Isaiah 62:6-12**

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels;

all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have laboured;

but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway,  
clear it of stones,  
lift up an ensign over the peoples.  
The LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to daughter Zion,  
‘See, your salvation comes;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.’  
They shall be called, ‘The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD’;  
and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.’  
A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm** It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

**No. 289**

**Second Lesson Titus 3:4-7**

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Pg. 151

*Please stand as you are able.*

**The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town

of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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 Saviour, 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 favours!’

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day    Angels We Have Heard on High                      **No. 289**

Nicene Creed    Inside cover of Hymnal and Pg 104

### **The Prayers**

*Please stand as you are able.*

The response to “*Hear us, O God.*” is “*Your mercy is great.*”

A As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

*A brief silence.*

A We give you thanks for the body of Christ in every land. Your people stand for peace and joy, like sentinels on the mountain. We pray for continued wisdom to live your will. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A We give thanks for this beautiful world—for waterways, deserts, forests, and prairies; for creatures large and small; for plants that feed and offer shelter. We pray for continued good care of our earth, our home. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A We give thanks for the many nations on earth—for people who teach us new ways to dance and to sing; for languages that help us learn new names; for unfamiliar foods and spices. We pray for a sense of adventure. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A We give you thanks for those who see the struggles of neighbours and offer help. We pray for newborns and the aged; for those who are in mourning and those who fight depression; for refugees and homeless people; for those with no one to accompany them in their final days; and for those we name in our hearts or aloud... (a brief silence). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A We thank you for our sisters and brothers in faith—for all people of the book; for seekers and questioners; for skeptics and the resolute. We pray that your generous Spirit will comfort and challenge us throughout the coming year. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died. As you cradle your people in your merciful arms, bring us at last with all the saints into life eternal. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A We pray for those attending to the care of others and to beneficial endeavours that keep them away from worshipping this morning. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

Pg. 152

### **The Offering**

Offertory *Carol of the Bells by M. Leontovich*

Setting of the altar and reception of the Offerings. *Please be seated.*

Offering Prayer

A We pray.

**C Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Pg. 152

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Pg. 153

Eucharistic Prayer (Christmas Prayer)

The Lord's Prayer (I)

Pg. 154

Lamb of God:

Pg. 154

At the Breaking of the Bread

P Our Lord, Emmanuel, shares his life with us.

**C Hosanna in the highest.**

### **The Administration of the Sacrament**

*Please be seated. Assistants and those in need commune first.*

Communion Hymns

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

**No. 276**

Once in Royal David's City

**No. 269**

Table Blessing *Please stand as you are able.*

Post-Communion Prayer

A We pray.

**C Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

Benediction

**C Amen.**

Sending Hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**No. 270**

Dismissal

**Pg. 155**

**C Thanks be to God.**

Organ Postlude “*Prelude and Fugue in C*” by J.S. Bach



**WELCOME** to all who gather here this morning. We especially welcome guests and visitors among us. We are blessed to have you worship with us. Should you have any questions please feel free to ask one of today’s servants or speak to the pastor.

**WE THANK TODAY’S SERVANTS**

- Usher Cam Schneider
- Lector Cam Schneider
- Altar Guild Clarice Rasmuson, Jennifer Primmer
- Zoom Host Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

**Christmas Blessings**  
 to you and your family from all of us at  
**Highwood Lutheran Church**



**FOR**

unto us a

*Child* <sup>is</sup> born

UNTO US A

*Son*

is given; and the government shall be upon *His* shoulder. And

*His* name will be called  
**WONDERFUL,**

*Counselor,* <sup>THE MIGHTY GOD</sup>

**THE EVERLASTING FATHER,**

*The Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH

9:6