



Augustana

LUTHERAN CHURCH

5000 East Alameda Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80246

PHONE: 303-388-4678

FAX: 303-388-1338

WEB: augustanadenver.org

E-MAIL: info@augustanadenver.org

Worship | Grow | Go

Nativity of Our Lord
A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 2023 | 5 p.m.

Welcome to worship on this Christmas Eve. We are thankful that you are here at Augustana!

This day is a powerful reminder to us that in every time and place, and in everything we experience in life, we are embraced by Emmanuel "God With Us." Today we sing that good news together, we hear it announced by angels, and we taste it in Holy Communion. Filled with the light and love of Christ, we go to share those gifts with the world around us.

Sign the worship slip and place it in the offering plate so that hospitality, prayer, and pastoral care may be kept up to date.

Merry Christmas and a Warm Welcome to Visitors!

Knowing that there are many reasons we end up at church on Christmas Eve, we hope you experience moments of peace and grace as Jesus' birth is celebrated during worship. As visitors, feel free to text 251-276-5085 with Welcome in the text message to subscribe. We'll make every attempt to be thoughtful about how and when we text by way of follow up. Texts will include links to information and events you may find easy to attend. Friends under 18 years old may be added to the list with your parents' permission.

Prelude

"What Child Is This?" –arr. Arthur Zepp

"Still, Still, Still" – arr. Dennis Alexander

Tim Garrington, piano

"O Holy Night" –Adolphe Adam

Caroline Stratton, piano

"Lullaby Carol" –Polish folk song

Elise Earhart, solo

"Gesù Bambino" –Pietro A. Yon

"Wachet Auf" – Johann S. Bach

Tim Garrington, piano

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" –German carol

Andrew Peters, organ

Welcome

The assembly stands.

Processional ♦ “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Candlelighters

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1–3: Candlelighters

At the beginning of stanza 4, the assembly stands and sings with the candlelighters.

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 2 O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by Thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient Times didst give the law
in clouds, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 4 **O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the path that leads on high,
And guide the way to victory!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Dialogue

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.**

Carol ♦ ELW 269: **Once in Royal David's City**

IRBY



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

A reading from Luke.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ♦ ELW 265: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born
with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,
"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

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A reading from Luke.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ♦ “Hallelu!” –Stephen Paulus
Cantabile

Down in a valley, sing hallelu!

Mary had a baby, sing hallelu!

What did she name Him, sing hallelu, named Him Jesus, Hallelu!

–traditional

Lesson IV ♦ Luke 2:8–20

Sofia Aarestad

A reading from Luke.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol ♦ “Hear the Bells” –Michael Bedford
Cherub Choir

Hear the bells on Christmas say, “Jesus Christ is born today.”
Hear them as they ring their joy sweetly to the Jesus boy.
“Ding dong, ding dong!” Joyfully they ring their song.
Hear the joyful news they bring: “Glory to the newborn King.”
Hear the angels in the sky, “Glory be to God on high!”
Hear them as they sing their joy sweetly to the Jesus boy!”
“Sing a song, sing a song!” Joyfully they sing along.
Hear the joyful news they bring: “Glory to the newborn King.”

Sermon ♦ Pastor Caitlin Trussell

The assembly stands.

Carol ♦ ELW 296: **What Child Is This**

GREENSLEEVES

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-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?
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;
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!
 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 assembly is seated.

Lesson V ♦ Matthew 2:1–11

Dan Howard

A reading from Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.”

³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“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.”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.”

⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹On 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.**

Carol

“When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight” –Mary Kay Beall
Choristers

What can I give to Him, a heavenly King? What can I give to Him?
I have nothing to bring, but I'll offer my heart when I kneel at the manger tonight.
What can I give to Him, to honor His birth? What can I give to Him?
I have nothing of worth but I'll offer my heart when I kneel at the manger tonight.
If I were a shepherd boy, I would give Him a lamb.
If I were a mighty king, I would give Him a golden ring.
But what can I give to Him, I have nothing at all. What can I give to Him?
Would my gift be too small if I offer my heart when I kneel at the manger tonight?

–Mary Kay Beall

Offering

Thank you for supporting Augustana's mission to worship, grow and go in our community and across the world!

Scan the code to donate securely through Augustana's website.



“Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring” –Johann S. Bach
Tim Garrington, piano

The assembly stands.

Offering Carol ♦ ELW 289: Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first two systems show the vocal line and piano accompaniment for the main verses. The third system is a refrain, with the vocal line starting on a higher note and the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains, and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains." The refrain consists of the words "Glo - ri - a".

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887–1958

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

The assembly is seated until invited by the ushers to come forward for Holy Communion.

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to come forward for a blessing instead, please fold your hands, and the servers will know to give you a blessing. Communion is by intinction today. Ushers will direct you to the chancel or the narthex, where you will receive a wafer, the Body of Christ, which you may dip in either the wine (dark) or the grape juice (clear), the Blood of Christ. If you prefer, you may receive the wafer only.

Gluten-free wafers are available at each station. If you have difficulty coming to a communion station, please tell an usher, and those distributing will be glad to bring communion to you.

If you are worshiping with us on livestream, you may use bread or crackers and wine or juice from your home. We invite you to share this bread of life and cup of blessing as we all are one in Christ.

Communion Carols

ELW 277: Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
 the stars in the bright 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
 and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
 close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care
 and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

- 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, good will 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 blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast’ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Blessing after Communion

May the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in God’s grace. **Amen.**

Carol ♦ “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” –13th century Plainsong Candlelighters

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He.
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Anthem and Carol ♦ “Peace, Peace” –Rick and Sylvia Powell/arr. Fred Bock
Candlelighters

*At the invitation of the director, the assembly is invited
to join in singing “Silent Night.”*

ELW 281: Silent Night, Holy Night!

STILLE NACHT

Stanza 1: Unison | Stanzas 2 and 3: Optional Harmony

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,

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,

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

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

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

The assembly stands.

Blessing

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

Postlude ♦ “In dulci jubilo” –Johann S. Bach



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome!

- How good to have you here! Thanks for signing the worship registration slip and placing it in the offering plate.
- Large-print copies of the service bulletin are available from Augustana's ushers.
- Children are welcome in worship! Children's bulletins and crayons are available on Augustana's entrance tables. On either side of the sanctuary there are activity bags for children. Please return the bags when worship is finished. Along with the Caring Corner, the nursery is available for children accompanied by an adult. Changing tables are available in the men's bathroom and in the family bathroom on this floor.
- For a copy of today's sermon, inquire in Augustana's office.
- Secure online gifts may be made through the [Giving page at Augustana's website, augustanadenver.org](http://www.augustanadenver.org). You can also text message your offering to 303-653-9592.
- Restrooms are located downstairs beneath the west entrance; handicapped accessible restrooms are on the east side of the sanctuary in the hallway behind the chancel.
- An elevator is available at the Fairfax Street entrance.
- Handicapped parking and entrances are available at the Fairfax Street and Elm Street entrances. Additional parking is available on the south side of the building.
- Please make sure your cell phones are silenced during worship.
- Parents, for the safety and well-being of all our children, we ask that you attend your children at all times.
- If you would like to leave your bulletin for recycling, please place it at the end of the pew.

Christmas Eve Ministries

Altar Guild:

Bill & Rhonda Crossen

Communion:

Paul & Heather Frank
Heidi Johnson
Mike & Arianne Theiss
Shanna VanderWel

Communion Linens:

Kathy Edstrom

Musicians:

Cherub Choir Director: Marcia Olson
Choir Accompanists: Tim Garrington
and Sharon Schillereff

Readers:

Katrina Crook
Beth Warren
Sofia Aarestad
Amelia Matossian
Dan Howard

Ushers:

Wil Crook
Bill Crossen
Jamie Kastens
Craig Tamminga
Miles Tamminga

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Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Worship

- Worship in person at 8 a.m. in Christ Chapel or at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- Join Augustana on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/) or YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8QQ4ybjC4GuBH_mdvVRCdA) for worship livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit Augustana's website (www.augustanadenver.org) for downloadable worship resources and past worship videos.

Staff

Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Bridge Pastor: Gail Mundt

Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Shanna VanderWel

Nursery Attendant: Mary Beth Brown

Faith Community Nurse:

Sue Ann Glusenkamp

Director of Music and Organist:

Andrew Peters

Chancel Choir Director: Kevin Padworski

Augustana Vocal Ensemble:

Emily Murdock, Bella Mallow,
Blake Nawa`a, Keith Williamson

Choristers and Cantabile Director:

Angela Howard

Finance Administrator: William Crossen

Building Systems Administrator:

Christine Peters

Publications Administrator: Lyn Goodrum

Administrator of Volunteer Ministry and

Building Use: Julie MacDougall

AV Technicians:

Alice Alister and Jesse Crone

Facility Manager: Craig Tamminga

Building and Grounds Manager:

Asmir Hodzic

Wedding Coordinators: Ellen Kastens, Amy

Tamminga, Erin Saboe Willoughby

Augustana Early Learning Center Director:

Kisanet Yohannes

President of the Congregation:

Lisa Boe-Sims

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Augustana Early Learning Center:

303-388-7012

Prayer Network for Critical Illness and

Emergencies: 303-388-4678

Dial-a-Care, Pre-recorded Daily Devotions:

303-996-2733