



First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 2024 | 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Augustana
LUTHERAN CHURCH

5000 East Alameda Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80246

PHONE: 303-388-4678

WEB: augustanadenver.org

Worship | Grow | Go

It was in the year 567 that the Council of Tours proclaimed the twelve days from Christmas to Epiphany as a sacred and festive season and established the time of Advent fasting in preparation for the feast. We all know about the Twelve Days of Christmas from the holiday song, but few today celebrate the entire season of Christmas that begins on December 25 and concludes with the Epiphany star on January 6 as the wise men visit the Christ child.

Today, we observe the Fifth Day of Christmas with a Festival of World Carols, embracing and honoring the witness of the Christian church around the world.

In the Gospel text for today, the First Sunday of Christmas, we find the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple, growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God today to sing hymns and spiritual songs to God, who has gifted us with a light shining in the darkness. As the twelve-day Christmas festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."

10:30 a.m. worship is livestreamed weekly especially to include our home-centered members who cannot join us in person. Celebrating our public worship, we also protect our kids in real time on livestream by redirecting the cameras to other views during children's time and communion.

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

Prelude ♦ Polish ♦ "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Welcome

Gathering Hymn ♦ French ♦ ELW 292: Love Has Come

UN FLAMBEAU



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950
 Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856
 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

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Opening Dialogue

Beloved Jesus, hope of the world,
 Help us to see your light and let it shine.

**May our hearts be comforted
 and our spirits filled with peace.**

Come! Listen to choirs of angels
 announcing good news to all lands and people.

**Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing:
 Glory to God in the highest!**

Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart,
 not as history but as a gift.

**Opening our hearts to this great mystery,
 may Christ be born in us today.**

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.



1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;



Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
 For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
 and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.



Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959
 Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863
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Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to be a people of your peace, that all nations embrace the love and hope that your incarnation promises. May we live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

Carol ♦ Chinese ♦ **Midnight Stars Make Bright**

Vocal solo:

- 1 Midnight stars make bright the skies,
Bethlehem in slumber lies:
glist'ning heav'n sends forth a great light,
shepherds see a wondrous sight!
Angels ranks in chorus sing.
Silken sounds from heaven ring.
Frightened shepherds hear them say:
"Christ is born on earth today!"

Refrain Glory be to God on high,
blest are all beneath the sky.

- 2 Midnight slumber lies o'er all,
one lone bright lamp lights the stall.
Choose old clothing, wrap him warmly,
manger shall his cradle be.
Born to save us from our sin,
Word made flesh, our lives to win,
came to earth from heaven's throne,
mortals' sin to bear alone. *Refrain*

Text: Jing-qiu Yang, 1912-1966; tr. Mildred A. Wiant, 1898-2001

Text © 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd., Hong Kong, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Reflection

Carols ♦ French Canadian (Huron) ♦ **'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime**

Organ Improvisation:

'Twas in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled
that God the Lord of all the earth
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria!

Text: Jing-qiu Yang, 1912-1966; tr. Mildred A. Wiant, 1898-2001

Text © 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd., Hong Kong, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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Lesson ♦ Colossians 3:12–17

A reading from Colossians.

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

Gospel Acclamation ♦ African American ♦ **Jesus, Oh What A Wonderful Child**

Vocal solo:

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;

new life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing:

“Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring!

Text: African American traditional, alt.

The assembly stands.

Gospel ♦ Luke 2:41-52

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.”

⁴⁹ He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day ♦ United States ♦ ACS 908: **In a Far-Off Place, Jesus Comes**

TENTH NIGHT

stanza 1: vocal solo ♦ stanzas 2-3: all



1 In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to earth.
2 For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to earth.
3 In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to earth:



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the
Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each
ra - diant star to light our way. Sum-mer's



an - gel songs be - gin, like the whis - per of the wind,
 home-less in - fant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
 heat or win - ter's chill, with a warm and lov - ing will,



na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain; Je - sus comes.
 for the wear - y and the worn, Je - sus comes.
 to a world that needs him still, Je - sus comes.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: TENTH NIGHT, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952
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The assembly is seated.

Prayers of the People

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Carol ♦ Malawki ♦ ELW 293: **That Boy-Child of Mary**

BLANTYRE

stanza 1: vocal solo ♦ stanzas 2-4: all



That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000
 Music: BLANTYRE, Malawi traditional; adapt. Tom Colvin
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Offering

The quiet moments between Christmas and the New Year offer us time to count the blessings we have been afforded throughout 2024 and hold dear our ability to praise, honor, and serve in 2025.

—Offering Highlight brought to you by Stewardship Committee



Hispanic ♦ **O Sleep Now, Holy Baby**

Vocal solo:

- 1 Oh, sleep now, holy baby, with your head against my breast;
meanwhile the pangs of my sorrow are soothed and put to rest.

Refrain: A la ru, a la mé, a la ru, a la mé,
a la ru, a la mé, a la ru, a la ru, a la mé.

- 2 You need not fear King Herod, he will bring no harm to you;
so rest in the arms of your mother who sings you a la ru. *Refrain*

Text: Hispanic folk song; tr. John Donald Robb, 1892-1989
Tr. © 1954 University of New Mexico Foundation, admin. J. D. Robb Musical Trust

The assembly stands.

Offering Response ♦ ELW 294: **In the Bleak Midwinter**

CRANHAM

stanza 1: all ♦ stanza 2: organ and cello ♦ stanzas 3: all

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.
 the Lord . . . God al-mighty, Jesus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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The assembly is seated.

Reflection

Carol ♦ German ♦ ELW 272 : **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Cello and Organ:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
 from tender stem hath sprung!
 Of Jesse's lineage coming
 as seers of old have sung,
 it came, a flow'r so bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half-spent was the night.</p> | <p>3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
 with sweetness fills the air,
 dispels with glorious splendor
 the darkness everywhere.
 True man, yet very God,
 from sin and death he saves us
 and lightens ev'ry load.</p> |
| <p>2 Isaiah had foretold it,
 the rose I have in mind;
 with Mary we behold it
 the virgin mother kind.
 To show God's love aright,
 she bore to us a Savior,
 when half-spent was the night.</p> | |

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2;
 Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

The assembly stands.

Blessing

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
 carry you into new and abundant life.
 May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
 enfold you with love and strength.
 May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
 bring harmony to our world.
 And the blessing of almighty God,
 the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

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

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude ♦ Swiss Noel –Louis Claude D'Aquin

You are welcome to sit by the organ console during the postlude.

Flowers for worship today are given by Frank and Janet Philipp in gratefulness of 50 years for marriage.



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.
- Hearing assistance headphones are available for worship in the sanctuary. Ask an usher for an easy-to-use device for enhanced listening during 10:30 a.m. worship.
- You are welcome to have your water bottles with you during worship.
- Activity bags for children are available just outside of Christ Chapel. On the south side of the Sanctuary, children are welcome to borrow items from the Worship & Wiggle shelf. Please return the items after worship. Childcare is available in the nursery, 9 a.m.–noon, for newborns through children age 5, and the Cozy Corner is available to parents at the west sanctuary entrance. Changing tables are available in the men's bathroom and in the family bathroom on this floor.
- Secure online gifts may be made through the Giving page at Augustana's website (augustanadenver.org). You can also text message your offering to 303-653-9592.
- Restrooms and water stations 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.
- Accessible seating for people with assistive health and mobility devices is available on the south side of the sanctuary.
- 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.
- The Ammerman Library is open and staffed every Sunday.
- 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.

Musicians

Emily Anderson, vocal soloist
Preston Mueller, Kent Mueller, cello

Worship Ministries

Altar Guild:

December Bill Crossen
Rhonda Crossen

Bus Driver:

Michael Graham

Greeter:

10:30 a.m. Kathi Schmidt

Library:

Kathy Edstrom

Prayers:

Kisanet Yohannes

Readers:

8 a.m. Nancy Nyhus
10:30 a.m. Larry Rasmussen

Ushers:

8 a.m. Paul & Kathy Edstrom
10:30 a.m. Karen Bourg
Dana Buhr
Herman Ezepeleta
John Flory
Greg Hempelman
Kristin Hempelman
Allan Schneider

About our Christmas Art

The exquisite Christmas banners and altar frontal are comprised of thousands of fabric pieces glued in place to create a tapestry of mosaic color featuring the Christmas star and the light of Christ shining into the heavens and the earth. The banners were designed by Ken Phillips, a Denver artist who specializes in liturgical fabric art. They were created as a community art project at Regis University. This Christmas art installation is provided through a memorial gift given to Augustana for our spiritual arts.

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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 or YouTube channel for worship livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit Augustana's website (augustanadenver.org) for links, downloadable worship resources, and past worship recordings.

Staff

Senior Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Assisting Pastor (interim): Karen Ullestad

Assisting Pastor (interim): Kent Mueller

Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Deacon Shanna VanderWel

Nursery Attendant: Mary Beth Brown

Interim Faith Community Nurse:

Inez Smith

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

Interim Office Administrator: Janice Schulz

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, Pam Uyemura

Augustana Early Learning Center Director:

Kisanet Yohannes

President of the Congregation:

Heidi Johnson

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