

LARGE PRINT

# First Sunday of Christmas

Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.



December 31, 2023

9:30 a.m.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

[www.holynativity.net](http://www.holynativity.net)



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

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**Welcome to WORSHIP at Holy Nativity!**  
**Holy Nativity Lutheran Church ~ 3900 Winnetka Avenue North**  
**~ New Hope, MN 55427**  
**Phone 763-545-1647 [www.holynativity.net](http://www.holynativity.net)**  
**Email: [office@holynativity.net](mailto:office@holynativity.net)**

*Our Mission & Ministry: “Grounded in Christ’s love, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is a welcoming community dedicated to helping all know God’s love through worship, service, and fellowship.”*

**Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am**  
**in person or on Facebook “LIVE”**  
**at [facebook.com/holynativitynewhope!](https://facebook.com/holynativitynewhope)**

*The nursery is available during worship for families with kids ages 3 and under.*

**Staff Members:**

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom	Pastor
Iver Hubert	Director of Music & Worship
Lisa Stockert	Organist & Communications Coordinator
Kristen Chamberlain	Sunday School Director
Linda Lien	Congregational Care Coordinator & Set-Up Funeral Coordinator
Wendy Grimes	Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Wiblishauser	Custodial Care & Activity Set-Up
Kara Holt	Financial Coordinator
Amy Laite	Sunday Nursery Coordinator (September through April)
Tawn Hanson	Wedding Coordinator
Brittany Anderson	Director of Week-Day Childcare Center ( <a href="http://hncccc.org">hncccc.org</a> )

**Worship “Stream” Team:**

Mark Chamberlain, Harper Chamberlain, Andrew Kubly,  
 Chris Daniels, Isaac Daniels

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## ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*“Each new day on earth is a sacred moment.”*

-Lailah Gifty Akita

## WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

*This is a time to quietly listen, pause to pray,  
and reflect on why we are here.*

### GATHERING MUSIC

*“Overture To Christmas”*

arr. Charles Lindberg

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

*P: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen**

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (P-Pastor, C-Congregation)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*(silence is kept for reflection)*

P: God of life,

**C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where**

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**we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

## WE PRAISE GOD

### GATHERING HYMN

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

Hymnal #270

*1) Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

*(Refrain) Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

*2) Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! (Refrain)*

*3) Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. (Refrain)*

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**GREETING & KYRIE**

Red Folder Pg. 13

**HYMN OF PRAISE***“Glory to God”*

Red Folder Pg. 14

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (unison) **Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God’s salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. <sup>62:1</sup>For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words...*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 148 (tone 3) (*sung responsively*)



(*first line of each verse*)

(*second line of each verse*)

Leader: <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Lord <sup>1</sup> from the heavens;  
praise God <sup>1</sup> in the heights.

All: <sup>2</sup> **Praise the Lord, <sup>1</sup> all you angels;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> hosts of heaven.**

Leader: <sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, <sup>1</sup> sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you <sup>1</sup> shining stars.

All: <sup>4</sup> **Praise the Lord, heav- <sup>1</sup> en of heavens,  
and you waters a- <sup>1</sup> bove the heavens.**

Leader: <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they <sup>1</sup> were created,

All: <sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forev- <sup>1</sup> er and ever,  
givin them a law that shall not <sup>1</sup> pass away.**

Leader: <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord <sup>1</sup> from the earth,  
you sea monsters <sup>1</sup> and all deeps;

All: <sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, <sup>1</sup> snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, do- <sup>1</sup> ing God's will;**

Leader: <sup>9</sup> mountains <sup>1</sup> and all hills,  
fruit trees <sup>1</sup> and all cedars;

All: <sup>10</sup> **wild beasts <sup>1</sup> and all cattle,  
creeping things and <sup>1</sup> flying birds;**

Leader: <sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth <sup>1</sup> and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers <sup>1</sup> of the world;

All: <sup>12</sup> **young <sup>1</sup> men and maidens,  
old and <sup>1</sup> young together.**

Leader: <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over <sup>1</sup> earth  
and heaven.

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**All:** <sup>14</sup> **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all <sup>1</sup> faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING**

Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words...*

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL VERSE**

*"Alleluia "*

Red Folder Pg. 15

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 2:22-40

*Pastor: The holy gospel according to Luke...*

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>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

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Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup>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, <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*Pastor: The gospel of the Lord...*

**Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*“Heading Home After Christmas”*

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

**MOMENT TO REFLECT** (*We pause in silence.*)



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## WE RESPOND

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “*Love Has Come*”

Red Hymnal #292

*1) Love has come – a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*2) Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*

*3) Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

Hymnal Pg. 105

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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## OFFERING/CHILDREN'S TIME

*(If you are worshiping at home, you are invited to mail or drop off your offering, or donate online – go to our website at [holynativity.net](http://holynativity.net) and click on “Make Donation.” Thank you!)*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each prayer petition... P: Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.)*

**LORD'S PRAYER** (unison) **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.**

## BENEDICTION

**P:** Now may the light of God surround us, the love of God enfold us, and the presence of God watch over and protect us. For wherever we are, our God is also there. We close as we began, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## MISSION HYMN

*“Go Tell It On the Mountain”*

Hymnal #290

*(Refrain) Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*1) While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)*

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2) *The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)*

3) *Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)*

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING MUSIC**      *"Joy To The World"*      arr. Mark Hayes

*Flowers by the altar are given by Don & Delores Hoseth in honor of  
their anniversary, and "Happy New Year to All"*

## WEEKLY INFORMATION

<p><b><i>Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup></i></b>  <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>            9:30am Worship            10:30am Fellowship Time            No Education            12:00pm – 3:00pm Holy Ghost Church            9:00pm – 12:00am Holy Ghost Church</p>	<p><b><i>Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup></i></b>            Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm            9:00am Quilters</p>
<p><b><i>Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup></i></b>            Office Closed</p>	<p><b><i>Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup></i></b>            Office Hours 9:00am – 1:00pm</p>
<p><b><i>Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup></i></b>            Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm            No Bible Study            No Staff Meeting            5:00 – 7:00pm Holy Ghost Church (Annex)            5:45pm Treble Tones Board            7:00pm Treble Tones</p>	<p><b><i>Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup></i></b></p>
<p><b><i>Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup></i></b>            Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm            9:30am Lounge reserved             No Confirmation or Choir</p>	<p><b><i>Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup></i></b>  <i>Baptism of our Lord</i>            9:30am Worship w/Communion            10:30am Fellowship Time            10:45am Education for All            12:00pm – 3:00pm Holy Ghost Church</p>
<p><b>PRISM</b> is always in need of nonperishable food donations.  <b>December's Mission Offering</b> is designated to the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.  <b>January's</b> is Lutheran Disaster Response.</p>	

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## TODAY...

**Thank you** to Denise Prosek for accompanying worship today!

**There is no Education Hour today**, but you are invited to join us for Fellowship with coffee and donuts! Education returns next Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

## UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS...

**The church office** is closed tomorrow for New Year's Day. Happy New Year!

**No Wednesday night activities this week.** Confirmation and Nativity Choir return on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Our next congregational meeting** is coming up on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. We'll be discussing and adopting our 2024 budget. Join us!

**Family Camp!** We are returning to Camp Wapo February 23 - 25 for a weekend of rest together. Games, snacks, puzzles, movies, reading, broomball, hiking, naps, or nothing at all. Families, couples, singles – all are welcome! Have questions? Kristin Daniels would love to talk with you. Watch for a signup.

**Thank you for your continued financial support!** If you are worshiping with us at home, there are still many ways you can financially support Holy Nativity!

- **Mail your offering** (you may use your offering envelopes or mail checks to us at Holy Nativity, 3900 Winnetka Avenue N, New Hope, MN 55427).



- **Scan this QR code with your phone to make a donation online.** Or go to our website at [holynativity.net](http://holynativity.net) and click on “Make Donation.”
- **Contact the office to send you a Simply Giving form** for automatic withdrawals

*If you have a prayer request or update,  
or wish to be added to our prayer group,  
please contact the church office at 763-545-1647 or  
[office@holynativity.net](mailto:office@holynativity.net).*

<b><i>Thank you to today's worship assistants!</i></b>	
Council Host	Alan Sommervold
Cantor	Greg Eklund
Scripture Reader	Nancy Van Heel
Greeter	Deb Peterson
Ushers	Bruce & Terri Johnson, Sarah Monner, Jana Roiger
Coffee Helpers	Wayne & Jan Moen
Acolytes	
Altar Guild Assistants	Deb Peterson, Nora Levenson