

First Sunday of Christmas



December 31, 2023 | 9:30am

* Congregational responses in **bold**

Gathering Music *Greensleeves* (from Four Carol Preludes) Richard Purvis

Words of Welcome

Prayer of Confession

God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts. Our ways are not your ways.
Hear our confession. Heal our hearts. Forgive our sins.

(silence)

In Jesus you call us to hope,
that your justice will prevail –that the hungry will be fed and the lowly lifted up.

In Jesus you call us to faith,
in the mystery of your Presence in the world, and the truth that nothing will be impossible with you.

In Jesus you reveal your love,
that we might love more fully and know how deeply we are loved.

In Jesus you reveal your power,
a power with and for the vulnerable; a power held in mercy and grace.

In Jesus you call us to joy,
a joy that can hold the world's grief and its beauty.

(silence)

In the light of the Christ child, in the shadow of the Most High, we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn *What Child Is This* ELW 296

Greeting

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

Hymn of Praise *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (Stanzas 1 & 2) ELW 270

Prayer of the Day

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem to the temple in Jerusalem, where the Light of the world is humbly born and blessed over prognosticators and prophets. Open our eyes to the Christ's child presence in the shadows of our world, so that we – like him – may become beacons of your justice and defenders of all for whom there is no room. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation, God 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. 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. 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. 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. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

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

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

**Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

**Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.**

Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

**Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,**

who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

**Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;**

fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

**mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;**

wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;

**sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;**

young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.

**Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.**

**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!**

The Holy Gospel reading in Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” 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 Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” 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, 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. 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. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Prognostications for the New Year” Sumner Musolf

Hymn of the Day *In His Temple Now Behold Him* (Stanzas 1-3) ELW 417

Thanks for Your Generosity | Sharing of the Peace

Music at the Offering *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Johannes Brahms

Noisy Offering | Offertory Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Children are invited to cheerfully bring their “Noisy Offering” to the front during the Offertory Response.
This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.*

Prayers of the People

Congregational response following each prayer petition:

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

Lord’s Prayer

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.

Sending Hymn *The Bells of Christmas* (Stanzas 1-4) ELW 298

Blessing and Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

Sending Music *Let All Together Praise Our God* Paul Manz

WELCOME TO NORMANDALE



We're Glad You're Here!

Led by the Holy Spirit and living in God's grace, Normandale Lutheran Church is a community of believers who love, learn, worship, and serve as we walk in relationship with Jesus Christ and others. We hope you find in us a place of welcome, a place of worship, a place for you.

Welcoming Statement

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all people into full participation in the life and ministries of Normandale Lutheran Church.

We celebrate that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love one another, even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

Normandale Lutheran Church is committed to a ministry of reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith, history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God, and invite all into a faithful journey toward greater love, understanding, and reconciliation.

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SUNDAY AT NORMANDALE

Join us for **Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship** in the Fireside Room following worship.

Livestream of Sunday worship is available as a way to participate in the regular worship life of our congregation. Visit normluth.org/livestream to watch from wherever you are.

Hymnals are located in the pew backs. Both the ELW (red) and ACS (purple) hymnals are used in worship.

Hearing Devices are available to enhance your worship experience. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

Holy Communion is offered during worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

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NLC Kids

PrayGround is located at the front of the worship space and is filled with quiet toys and comfy seating for the littlest in our midst and their caregivers.

Extended PrayGround is located outside of the sanctuary next to the Fishbowl for children age 4 and up and their families. There are quiet activities for and a screen to see and hear worship.

Busy Bags filled with quiet activities are hanging outside the main entrance of the sanctuary.

Bulletins & Coloring Sheets are located on a table outside of the main sanctuary doors.

Noisy Offering

Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

Sunday School resumes January 14th!

WORSHIP LEADERS

President: Sumner Musolf
Liturgist: Pastor Paul Pettersen
Organist: Gregory Peterson
Acolyte: Wyatt Pence

Lector: Kim Pinkham
Greeters: Mel & Deb Henry
Sacristan: Lisa Schwie
Ushers: Kemme Team