



<p>Second Sunday of Christmas January 5, 2025   8:30 a.m.</p>	
<p><i>Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3</i></p>	
<p>Saron Lutheran Church <b>Jeanne Larsen</b>, Interim Pastor 1656 Main St   Mail: PO Box 964   Strasburg CO 80136 303-622-4303   saronstrasburg@outlook.com   saronstrasburg.org</p>	
<p><i>Welcome to Saron worship—in person or on <a href="#">Facebook Live!</a> Large-print copies of the bulletin are available at Saron’s entrances.</i></p>	

## Prelude

Kurt Elliott

*The assembly stands.*

## Call to Worship | For Unto Us



For un - to us a chi - ld is born. Un - to us a son is gi - ven

and the gov - ern - ment shall be up - on his shoul - der and his name shall be

called won - der - ful coun - sel or the migh - ty God - The ev - er last - ing



## Welcome/Announcements

### Gathering Song | ELW 275: Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## 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.**

## Litany for Christmas

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.*

Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!

**We greet the Wondrous Light, our Messiah, Christ the Lord.**

We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

**We greet the Wondrous Light, the fulfillment of our shocking hope.**

We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers, frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors, family, and friends.

**We greet the Wondrous Light, the bringer of our just peace.**

We have waited and watched, longing for joy that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos, and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.

**We greet the Wondrous Light, the source of our fierce joy.**

We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love that transforms us, the Love that is now here among us, first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher, a friend, and our Savior.

**We greet the Wondrous Light, Love Incarnate who has come to save us and transform us. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, **you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## First Reading | Jeremiah 31:7–14

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor, together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

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

## **Psalm** | Psalm 147:12–20

*Read responsively.*

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
**they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!**

## **Second Reading** | Ephesians 1:3–14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him

you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

*The assembly stands.*

### **Gospel Acclamation | ELW 295: Of the Father’s Love Begotten**

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite  
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

### **Gospel | John 1:1–18**

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

<sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children's Sermon/Sermon** | Pastor Jeanne Larsen

*The assembly stands.*

## Hymn of the Day | ELW 490: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;  
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' n - ly food.  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;**



**through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*After each petition: God of grace, receive our prayer.*

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Then the assembly is seated.*

## **Offering**

Thank you for your offerings that support the ministry of Saron Lutheran Church (offering plate)! Scan code if you would like to give your offering securely online.



Your noisy offerings will support **ELCA Good Gifts Farms** (jar).

*The assembly stands.*

## Offering Prayer

God of heaven and earth, **from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

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

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

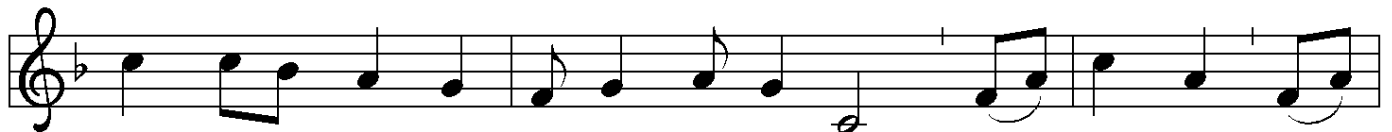
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word  
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.

Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The 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 usher to come forward for Holy Communion.*

## Holy Communion

*You are invited to come forward during communion and receive the edible gifts of God's grace. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available. You are also invited to kneel or stand by the railings and cross for a time of meditation.*

## Communion Hymn | ELW 273: All My Heart Again Rejoices



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and  
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to  
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and  
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are  
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that  
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is  
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."  
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.  
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

*The assembly stands.*

## **Blessing after Communion**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
**Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.  
**Amen.**

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.  
**Amen.**

May the Word that the 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.**

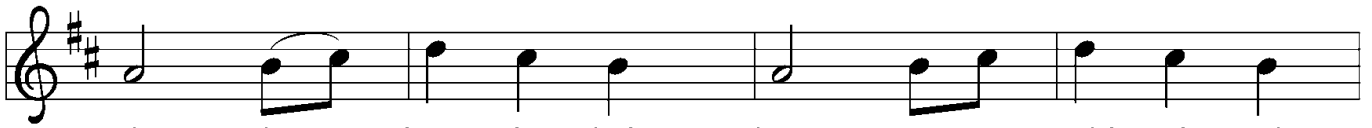
# Sending Song | ELW 300: The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered

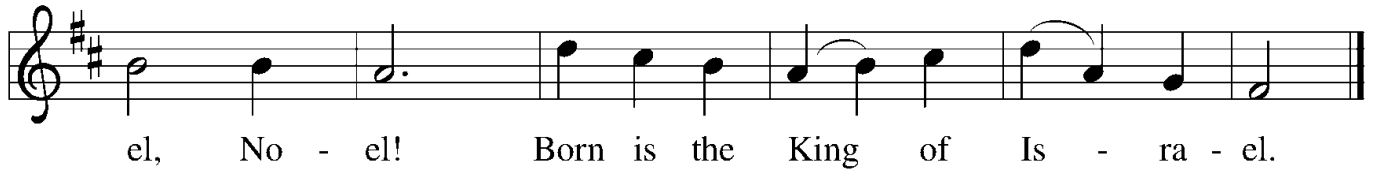


they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . . and

*Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



Text: English traditional  
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## 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.**

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**Musician:** Kurt Elliott | **Sound:** Patrick Tangeman

## “Goodies, Gab, and God”

Our Sunday morning “Goodies, Gab, and God” events are additional opportunities to connect over coffee, goodies, and God's word. Mark your calendars for these semimonthly discussions on the first and third Sundays of the month following worship!

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Saron's Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, January 26 following 8:30 a.m. worship. The purpose of the meeting is to review 2024 ministry, adopt a budget for 2025, elect council members and a synod assembly member, and address any additional church business.

## Little Free Pantry

Saron's Little Free Pantry continues to be an essential resource to our neighbors in need. Thank you to all who donate food and funds to keep the pantry stocked. Saron's noisy offering continues to support the Little Free Pantry. Jackie reports that these items are especially needed at this time:

- peanut butter
- cereal
- canned fruit or fruit cups
- dried milk
- Chef Boyardee or Spaghetti O's
- canned veggies
- toilet paper
- tooth paste and tooth brushes

- tuna or other canned meats
- chili
- soap

When you choose Saron Lutheran Church as the recipient of your neighborhood rewards, all funds received support the Little Free Pantry. To sign up for neighborhood rewards for Saron:

- Go to your King Sooper app
- Click on the three bars at the top left
- Click on Sooper Card Rewards
- Find Saron Lutheran and select it

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Saron Lutheran Church – celebrating 110 years!

**Mission Statement:**

Saron Lutheran welcomes all in the name of Christ:  
to know Christ's love | to grow in Christ's love | to go in Christ's love