



Welcome!

The stories and songs of Christmas invite us to worship wherever we are. In our homes and around the world, we are united with our loved ones by the Spirit of God in worship. Come let us adore Christ whose promises of hope, peace, joy and love resound in our troubled world.

11223 - 51 Ave NW, Edm, AB T6H 0L5 P: 780.434.4012
church@holyspiritlutheran.ca www.holyspiritlutheran.ca
Facebook: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Twitter: @HSLutheran

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Choir: Gather at the Manger

Declaration of Good News

Isaiah 9:2-7

The Prophet Isaiah foretells Jesus' coming

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light—upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining! God, you have made the nation greater – You have brought them abundant joy! They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest celebrations, or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils. For the yolk that burdened them, the weight on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors –you have shattered it, as you did at the defeat of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak that was dragged through blood, is now used as fuel for the fire. For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest. This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

Welcome

Call to Worship & Candle Lighting

Hymn

“Holy Child Within the Manger” (WOV 638)

Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-28

The Annunciation to Mary

Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!”

Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (ELW 282)

Third Lesson

Matthew 1:18-23

The Annunciation to Joseph

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they live together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly. This was Joseph's intension when suddenly the angel of God appears in a dream and said, “Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to

have a son, and you are to name him Jesus – ‘Salvation’ – because he will save the people from their sins.” All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet: “the virgin will be with child and give birth, and the child will be named Immanuel” – a name that means “God is with us.”

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (ELW 289)

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-6

The Holy Family Travels to Bethlehem

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her delivery.

Hymn

“O Come All Ye Faithful” (ELW 283)

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:7-14

The Promised Child Arrives!

She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn. There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid. The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David's city, a savior—the Messiah—has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you'll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.” Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in high heaven! And on earth, peace to those on whom God's favor rests.”

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (ELW 279)

Message

Rev. Trish Schmermund &

Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

Pastor: Rev. Trish Schmermund (she, her, hers)

Associate Pastor: Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum (they, them, theirs)

Musician: Kathy Robinson (she, her, hers)

Council President: Toby Schneider (he, him, his)

Ministers: Every Member

Video Editor/Live Streaming: Anton Chell (he, him, his)

Hymn

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (ELW 270)

Prayers of the People

God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love. As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears. O come Emmanuel,

God with us.

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope. We remember those living in war torn countries, those rebuilding their lives after natural disasters, and those seeking the necessities of life to survive. We pray for your courage and guidance to come alongside those in need. O come Emmanuel,

God with us.

Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body and in spirit; for those who are confused or afraid; and those who are grieving this day. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember now. O come Emmanuel,

God with us.

Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust. May we embody love that is forgiving, compassionate, and gracious. May we send back the angels’ song of peace and joy.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus who became the Christ, who taught us when we pray to say...

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

From this house to yours,
may you share in the gifts of this season.
May love, the promise of generations, attend you.
Joy, the gift of life together, fill you.
Peace, the desire of neighbour and nations, find you.
Hope, the horizon of faith, sustain you.
And may a very Merry Christmas be yours. **Amen**

Sharing the Christ Light

Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (ELW 281)

Sign of Peace

May the peace of the newborn Christ be with you,
And also with you.

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HSEC
Office Hours



December 25 -
CLOSED
December 28 -
CLOSED
December 29 -31
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
January 1 - CLOSED

See our website for links to worship:

Christmas Day - Fri, Dec 25
10:00 am Service of Holy Communion

1 Christmas - Sun, Dec 27
10:00 am Service of the Word

2 Christmas - Sun, Jan 3
10:00 am Service of the Word



*Merry Christmas from the
pastors, staff and council of
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church*