



Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 9pm  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
West Des Moines, Iowa

# Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Welcome

*Please stand as you are able.*

Opening Carol

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Hymnal 89

1. *It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold;  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.*
2. *Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o’er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o’er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.*
3. *Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the tidings which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife  
and hear the angels sing!*
4. *For lo! The days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.*

Liturgical Greeting

Priest      Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
People      Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

Gloria

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gather 361, v.1

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray

**O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

## Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
**sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation  
from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
**and his wonders among all peoples.**
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be  
praised; \*  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are  
but idols; \*  
**but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his  
presence! \*  
**Oh, the power and the splendor of his  
sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the  
peoples; \*  
**ascribe to the Lord honor and power.**

- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his  
Name; \*  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of  
holiness; \*  
**let the whole earth tremble before him.**
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is  
King! \*  
**he has made the world so firm that it  
cannot be moved; he will judge the  
peoples with equity."**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth  
be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is  
in it; \*  
**let the field be joyful and all that is  
therein.**
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout  
for joy before the Lord when he comes, \*  
**when he comes to judge the earth.**
- 13 He will judge the world with  
righteousness \*  
**and the peoples with his truth.**

## The Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

**Gospel Carol**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**Hymnal 356**

v. 1-2 before the Gospel; v. 3 following

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 the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

2. **Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord:  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see:  
Hail the 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 us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.**

Refrain

**Gospel**

**Luke 2:1-20**

Deacon            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
People            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon            The Gospel of the Lord.  
People            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## 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,  
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.

## The Prayers of the People

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

For the church around the world, as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For the nations of the earth, that as kings were drawn by a star to worship the infant Jesus, all peoples may stream to your light. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For those who live surrounded by conflict and violence, that the angels' proclamation of peace on earth among all people might be realized among us today. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For the weak and the vulnerable, the sick and the suffering, the homeless, the cold, the hungry; for all who, like Mary and Joseph, find no room to spend the night. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For all those who travel this Christmas season, that you would watch over them as you watched over the Holy Family as they traveled to Bethlehem, and to foreign lands. Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

For all the departed, and for those who grieve, that they may experience the loving presence of Emmanuel, “God with us.” Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Deacon

O God, we bring before you this night our prayers for those who are close and whom we love; we also bring before you this night our prayers for those far from us whom we don't know and don't love. As we celebrate the birth of your son, help us to be ever more like him, to learn to love as he loves, and to do our work to bring about your kingdom. **Amen.**

### The Peace

Priest      The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People      **And also with you.**

## Liturgy of the Table

### Offertory

*Gloria, He Is Born*

*Liebergen*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### Doxology

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

*Gather #367, v. 1*

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
O give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

### The Great Thanksgiving

Priest      The Lord be with you.

People      **And also with you.**

Priest      Lift up your hearts.

People      **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one Body, for we all share in the one bread.**

## Communion

*You do not need to be a member of this church or of any church to receive communion.*

*To receive the sacrament, come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The wine is received by intinction, by dipping the wafer into the chalice. Please let the clergy know if you require a **gluten-free wafer**; to indicate that you would prefer a **blessing only**, cross your arms across your chest.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.*

## Music at Communion

### As Mary Sleeps

Gallina

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Prayer after Communion

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Carol by Candlelight

### Silent Night

Gather 371

*The candles will be lit along the aisles. Please pass on the light to your neighbor.*

- 1. Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,  
Holy Infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- 3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

## Blessing

## Closing Carol

### Joy to the World

Gather 353

- 1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; Let us, our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3. No more let sin and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**



4. *He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

### Dismissal

Deacon Alleluia! Alleluia! As we mark this occasion of Jesus' coming again into our hearts, let us take his message out into the world in peace and love.

People **We will with God's help. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Postlude

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## MINISTERS

### Presider/Preacher

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

### Deacon

The Rev. Jeanie Smith

### Music Director

Don Agee

### Acolytes

Ashlyn Rounceville, James Halbrook, OPEN

### Lector/Litanists

Annie Waskom, Elizabeth Slocum

### Chalice Bearer

Larry Shea, Elizabeth Slocum

### Oblation Bearers

Maggie McGill, Jennie McKinney

### Ushers

Mark Marshall, OPEN

### Altar Guild

Annie Waskom, Sandra Marshall

### Livestream Coordinator

Colleen Krantz

### Vestry Representative

Maggie McGill

# Merry Christmas!

Whether you are a longtime parishioner at St. Timothy's, a newcomer, or a friend or family member visiting from out of town, we are delighted that you are celebrating the miracle of Christ's birth with us tonight.

Our worship tonight is full of joyous carols, familiar readings, and candles glowing in the night. All of it calls us to remember the incredible gift God has given us in the birth of Jesus, our Prince of Peace. And all is made that much more special by your presence.

I wish you a Merry Christmas from St. Timothy's, and may God bless you and keep you in the New Year.

Peace,



The Rev. Kyle Carswell, Rector

## COMING UP

### CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 25 THROUGH DECEMBER 28.

Calls and emails will be monitored for pastoral care needs.  
All others will be returned when the office re-opens on December 29.



### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 | 10 AM

We will not hold a Christmas Day service at St. Timothy's this year. Instead, we encourage those interested in attending a service on the 25th to attend worship at St. Paul's, Des Moines (815 High Street).

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## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 | 5 PM**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 | 10:15 AM**

On the weekend after Christmas, we will conduct our service using the Book of Common Prayer rather than a bulletin. We will also invite those present on Sunday to choose their favorite Christmas carol from our hymnal to sing together during the service.

## THE COMING WEEK

### Monday, December 29

Noon Casserole Baking  
6:30 pm Scouts

### Tuesday, December 30

6:30 pm EfM

### Wednesday, December 31

**CHURCH OFFICES CLOSE AT NOON**

### Thursday, January 1

**NEW YEAR'S DAY – OFFICES CLOSED**

### Friday, January 2

10 am BBB

### Saturday, January 3

9 am Centering Prayer  
5 pm Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, January 4

#### 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY BREAKFAST

8:45 am Childcare Available  
9 am Breakfast  
9:15 am Epiphany Activities  
10:15 am Holy Eucharist  
10:15 am Children Living the Word  
11:30 am Coffee Hour  
11:30 am De-Greening of the Church



## EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 | 9 AM**

Kick off 2025 by celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany! At 9 am we will gather for our First Sunday Breakfast and in place of our regular Children's Formation, there will be Epiphany-related activities for kids! Count on crafts, cookie decorating, and chalking the door!

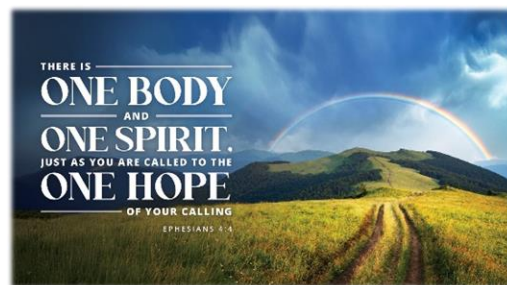
## SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 | 7 PM**

**WINDSOR HEIGHTS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1240 66<sup>th</sup> ST, WINDSOR HEIGHTS, IA**

Please join us for this ecumenical worship service marking the international Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service will include participation by the bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines, and the Southeast Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as well as clergy and parishioners of St. Timothy's. Bishop Betsey Monnot will offer the sermon for the service. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship alongside our Christian siblings of other denominations and celebrate our unity in Christ! A reception will follow the service.



## ST. TIMOTHY'S DAY & ANNUAL GATHERING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

St. Timothy's Day is our yearly chance to celebrate our patron saint and gather as a parish to look back on the previous year and ahead to what's to come.

Following our service, there will be a potluck meal in the Parish Hall, reports from ministry leaders, and the election of our newest vestry members. We hope to see you there!



# Thank You



To all who donated to support our Christmas flowers and greens!

**Colleen & Darin Krantz** in memory of Dverg Krantz and Madonna Foster

**Priscilla Dickinson** in memory of Feisal Sayeed, Peter Dickinson, and Tom Dickinson and in thanksgiving for Hana, Kalen, and Ella Sayeed and Steve Kersten

**Mary & Dan O'Brien** in thanksgiving for the Smith Family

**Sandra & Mark Marshall** in thanksgiving for our children and grandsons +1

**Steve Halbrook** in memory of Diane Ronning Halbrook

**Bill Wolff** in memory of Lu Wolff

**Mel Rambo** in memory of Jacquelyn Rambo

**Marty & Lyndy Wells** in thanksgiving for our kids, grandkids, and loved ones

**Lea & Bob Hollwager**

**Bev Donnelly** in memory of John Donnelly

**Jeanie & Bill Smith** in memory of Betty & Jack Douglas, Jeannie & Bill Smith, Janet Douglas Amos, Wes Burlingame, Susie Macy, Mary D. Macy and in thanksgiving for our children, Tyson, McB, Marcy and TD and their wonderful spouses, Alison, John, Marty and Juliana; for our grandchildren, Luke, Gwen, Lillie, Lucy, Eleanor, Redgie, Maggie, Millie and Ilaria; and for this loving community of friends at St. Timothy's

**Jana & Dan Montgomery** in thanksgiving for Ned, Lucy, and Lena and in memory of Ralph & Lucy Lee, Earl & Dorothy Montgomery, Patricia Montgomery, Kay Montgomery, and Janice Allison

**Amy & Joe Rounceville** in honor of Sydney & Andrew Knaack (daughter & son-in-law) in anticipation of the birth of our grandson soon

**Mark & Kathy Larson**

**Laurie & Dennis Mitchell** in memory of Gary and Sharon Homan

**Suzy & Matt Coen** in thanksgiving for Ian, Austin, Quinn, Sophia, Lilia, Elsie, Emilie, Aurora, and Willow

**Marsha & Gary Smith** in memory of our parents: Edna & Gus Smith and Ferne & Chester Morgan and in honor of our children and grandchildren: Laura, Brian, Jackson, and Megan