

# Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

670

WORDS: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922  
MUSIC: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922

LEMMELE  
Irregular

Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look full in His  
won - der - ful face, won - der - ful face, and the things of earth will grow  
strange - ly dim in the light of His glo - ry and grace.



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

10:15 AM

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family**

*As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.*

*\*(Indicates the people should stand as they are able.)*

Welcome and Announcements

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

**Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Hymn**

**"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"**

**Back Cover**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty Savior,

Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.**  
**We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**  
**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.**  
**We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.**  
**Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**  
**Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
**Amen.**

**HYMN                    "The Bells of Christmas"                    ELW#298**

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**

### **THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God's People; Synod Authorized Minister:  
Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Greg Bever;  
Acolytes: Mia Anderson, Ben Gruen

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gloria Meltesen, Linda, Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin Solovey,  
Gordy O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans,  
Jack Arndt, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk,  
Jeri Bauer Weger, Patty Von Haden, Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce,  
Pastor Bob Gerke, Brian, Jim Summerfield, Darlene Diekrager,  
Clint Meacham, Robert Hill, Tom Arndt, Alice Leis.

### **IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Allen  
Roscovious, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton

### **CALENDAR**

Wed., Dec. 31	New Years Eve	
Thurs., Jan. 1	Happy New Year	
Sun., Jan. 4	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We have just a few bags leftover from Christmas Eve. PLEASE  
feel free to grab one after service.

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Incarnate God,  
**you are among us at this table.**  
**May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.**  
**Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.**  
**Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**\*BLESSING**

The triune God, glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,  
✙ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

Hymn            **“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**            **ELW #290**

**DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God’s people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in  
our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so  
defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever.**  
**Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING**

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel.  
God’s own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read  
these words join in celebrating God’s gracious deeds. God trusts  
that God’s people will not act falsely.*

**A reading from Isaiah 63:7-9**

- <sup>7</sup> I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,  
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,  
because of all that the LORD has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
- <sup>8</sup> For he said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,”  
and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup> in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

### **Psalm 148**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.  
<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**  
<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.  
<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**  
<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Words of Institution

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

***Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.***

Distribution

**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.**

**\*PRAYERS** (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

## **OFFERING**

Hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter" **ELW #294, verse 3**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of glory,  
**great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving  
grace, through Christ our Savior.  
Amen.**

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

<sup>14</sup> **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!**

## **SECOND READING**

*Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives*

### **A reading from Hebrews 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup> For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup> saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

<sup>13</sup> And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

<sup>14</sup> Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all<sub>5</sub>

their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW p.205**

**\*GOSPEL READING**

*In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.*

**The holy gospel according to Matthew 2:13-23**

**Glory to you, O Lord.** The gospel of the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from

the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

Sermon

Karen Sparling  
Synod Authorized Minister

Hymn

**“What Child Is This”**

**ELW #296**

**\*APOSTLE’S CREED**

**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.**