



Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Corner of Broadway and Florey



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THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS is also the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs. Martyrs in deed, if not also in will, the male Bethlehem children two years old or under died in the conflict between the Light that Christ brings and the darkness of our sinful world. As we all struggle in that same conflict, we are glad that you have joined us here on this feast day! We welcome you to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and we invite you to come again any time for Divine Services, for Bible Classes and Studies, and for any of our other activities!

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The Δ symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen.", if an "Amen" is not already included.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS 2025 DECEMBER 28
DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166.)

+++ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +++

Catechesis	Section 1 The Creed (The Second Article)	322-323
Confession and Absolution	(right column)	151

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Entrance Hymn:	"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"	375
Kyrie		152-153
Hymn of Praise	Gloria in Excelsis	154
Salutation and Collect of the Day		156
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Psalm: Psalm 54 (antiphon: v.4)		24
(Chant the Psalm responsively: the congregation sings the indented and bold portions. The indicated antiphon is sung both before the Psalm and after the <i>Gloria Patri</i> .)		
Second Reading (& Response):	Revelation 14:1-5	156
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Holy Gospel (& Responses):	Matthew 2:13-18	157
Hymn of the Day:	"Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band"	Back Cover
Sermon	Matthew 2:13-18	
Nicene Creed		158
Reception of Members by Transfer		
Prayer of the Church, Offering, & Offertory		159-160
 For... let us pray to the Lord:  Lord have mercy.		
(Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)		

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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Closing Hymn:	"O Gladsome Light, O Grace"	888

+++ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY +++

“Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band” (#969)

1 Sweet flow - 'rets of the mar - tyr band, Plucked by the
2 First vic - tims for the in - car - nate Lord, A ten - der
3 Ah, what a - vailed King Her - od's wrath? He could not
△ 4 O Lord, the vir - gin - born, we sing E - ter - nal

ty - rant's ruth - less hand Up - on the thresh - old
flock to feel the sword; Be - side the al - tar's
stop the Sav - ior's path. A - lone, while oth - ers
praise to You, our King, Whom with the Fa - ther

of the morn, Like rose - buds by a tem - pest torn;
rud - dy ray, With palm and crown, you seemed to play.
mur - dered lay, In safe - ty Christ is borne a - way.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.

Tune: Daniel Vetter, d. 1721

Text and tune: Public domain

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***As we worship the Virgin's Son,
we join with the martyred boys,
pictured as playing
with their victory palms.***

The black and white line-art drawing on the front cover is by Lutheran Artist Edward Riojas of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is part of a package purchased from Higher Things and donated to Pilgrim for such uses. The Psalm tone is © 2006 by Concordia Publishing House. Reproduced by permission under license number 110005153.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2025

BEFORE THE SERVICE: As you greet and visit one another, please be sensitive to others who may wish an opportunity for silence to pray and otherwise to prepare for worship.

OFFERING BOX: Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the Narthex before or after services. Envelopes are available on the side of the Box for your use, such as if you would like your cash offering to be recorded, tracked, and receipted in a report back to you.

PEW CUSHIONS: If you would like to use a cushion either for your seat or for your seat and back, cushions for your use are available in the Usher's Closet off the north side of the Narthex.

PEW SLIPS: *Visitors*, please register your attendance both by completing a slip from rack on the back of the pews and placing them in the Offering Box in the Narthex and by signing the Guest Register at the door. *Members*, please complete a slip only if your contact information has changed or you have a new or updated prayer-list request. (The Usher tracks church attendance and communion participation.)

GROWING IN WORSHIP: Parents, please make use of the bulletins available in the Narthex for children aged 5-10, including the bulletins' activities for the whole week!

LARGER-PRINT/FLOW-THROUGH BINDERS are available in the Narthex for those who have trouble seeing the smaller-print of the hymnal, those with other special needs who cannot follow the liturgy in the hymnal or handle its weight, and those who are visiting Pilgrim who are not already familiar with liturgical services and/or our hymnal. If you need or otherwise want to use a flow-through and can help minimize paper and copying expenses, a PDF of the flow-through binder's contents is available in the upper-right corner of Pilgrim's homepage, www.pilgrimlc.org, to open on or to download to your electronic device.

PRAYER REQUEST: If you have a special petition for the Prayers of the Church, please notify the Usher, Elder on Duty, or Pastor before the service.

IF A NEED SHOULD ARISE, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restrooms are available in the Parish Hall (non-ADA Restrooms are available in the Office Area, one with a change table), and there is a Cry Room (also with a change table) off the south side of the Narthex. Let the Usher or Elder-on-Duty know if you need assistance or supplies.

Announcements continue on the inside of this insert.

Announcements continue from the front of this insert.

LAST WEEK: There were 0 students but 1 teacher prepared for Sunday School; 15 people were present in person for Adult Bible Class; 30 were present in person for the Sunday Divine Service (26 communed); 45 people were present in person for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Readings and Hymns; and 13 people were present in person for the Christmas Day Divine Service (13 communed). (Midweek Bible Study and Thursday Catechesis were not held due to holy days.)

THANK YOU TO PILGRIM from Pastor Galler and Elaine Navaille for the Christmas gifts, both from the congregation as a whole and from individual members!

THANKS to all those who placed greens last Sunday and to Pilgrim's Mary Martha Society for lunch; to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to Rev. Adler for the use of his chasubles; to Gayle Gardner and Ellen Menconi for picking up and caring for Pilgrim's poinsettias; to Remo Gualtieri and Ben Ford, and all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; and to Ellen Menconi for her Church Office work.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Jeromy McMurray, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

LIFE THOUGHTS: The Divinely-inspired St. Matthew says Jeremiah's prophecy about the matriarch Rachel's weeping for her children was fulfilled in the slaughter of the Bethlehem boys by King Herod, who felt his authority to be threatened (Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18). Sadly, like Herod, some still today see little children as a threat to their authority and aim for their destruction. As we weep over their loss, we also rejoice that by God's sparing His only-begotten Son from Herod's wrath, God has provided eternal salvation for all who in Him are holy and innocent and so join in the heavenly song around His throne (Revelation 14:1-5).

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: At the direction of an angel of the Lord, Joseph took Jesus and Mary, fled to Egypt, and remained there until those who sought Jesus's life were dead (Matthew 2:13-23). Joseph served the Lord and his neighbors in keeping with his callings in life, such as husband and adoptive father. We do likewise with our time, talents, and treasures.

OFFICIALLY RECEIVED TODAY by transfer from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Conroe, Texas, are David, Talitha, Link, Lily, Lila, and Lina LeBlanc. Please welcome them into our Pilgrim family!

AS YOU DEPART, please be mindful of those who are ushered out behind you, who may have difficulty standing and waiting, and so who may need an open path to the door and to get to their cars quickly. If you stop to talk to someone in the Sanctuary, please keep the aisle as clear as possible, and please delay lengthier conversations with the pastor until after he has greeted everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

“LOOSE-CHANGE SUNDAY”: Please use the large Mite Box in the Narthex today after the Divine Service, in order to contribute your loose change and more, beyond your regular offering, for LWML mites that in part fund District and National mission grants (lists of grant recipients are on the bulletin board above the Mite Box).

AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX are hardcopies of the January 2026 edition of Pilgrim’s monthly newsletter, *The Pilgrimage*; #16 (Autumn 2025) of *Christian Culture: A printed Magazine for Lutherans* from Luther Classical College; Pastor Galler’s recent newspaper columns (including his 12/20 column titled, “Behold! Angels announce more than Jesus’s birth”); Portals of Prayer for January-March 2026; the larger-print schedule of Daily Bible Reading for December and January; the latest Church Directory (dated 2025/07/01 on goldenrod paper); and Pilgrim’s Funeral Planning Worksheet for completing, discussing with Pastor Galler, and filing in the Church Office.

STUDY HOURS: Pastor Galler is usually in his study Tuesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and Saturdays Noon to 3:00 p.m. Come for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* 292-293) or for any other reason. Pastor Galler is also available at other times by appointment at Pilgrim, or he can come to you (email pastor@pilgrimlc.org or text/call 903-984-4333). For emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Galler

CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS DIVINE SERVICE will be Thursday, January 1, at 10:00 a.m. (note the earlier-than-usual time for a morning Divine Service). Start the new year off in the Lord’s Name!

COUNCIL REPORTS: Please submit reports for the Fourth Quarter of 2025 and agenda items for the First Quarter Council Meeting to Recording Secretary Rita Whitley by next Sunday, January 4, or as soon as possible, so that the Packet for that Meeting can be distributed and otherwise available before that Meeting on January 25. Thank you!

Announcements continue from the inside of this insert.

INSTALLATION OF 2026 COUNCIL AND ELDERS: All those elected for 2026 will be installed next Sunday, January 4, during the Divine Service, *in absentia*, if necessary. (The list was published in the November Voters’ Packet and will be reprinted on the latest Pilgrim Directory.) Thank you to all those who served in 2025!

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class (“Romans: The Righteousness of God”); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service (with Council and Elders’ Installation), followed by “De-greening” and a gathering of “The 15-2 Folk”.

Readings: 1 Kings 3:4-15; Ps 119:97-104; Eph 1:3-14; and Lk 2:40-52.

Hymns: LSB 981, 410, 523, 686, 863, and 862.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

PLEASE HELP “DEGREEN” the Sanctuary after the Christmas II Divine Service next Sunday, January 4, including taking home the poinsettias, so that we are ready for the Epiphany Divine Service on Tuesday, January 6. Thank you!

“THE 15-2 FOLK” will gather next Sunday, January 4, after the Divine Service in the Great Room of the Parish Hall, for heavy snacking and Cribbage playing. All are welcome to stay for the heavy snacking, even if not staying for the Cribbage playing! If you do not know how to play Cribbage, they will teach you! You can stay also to observe the games or just to visit with those playing.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD: Divine Service will be offered Tuesday, January 6, at 7:00 p.m. Let also us come to worship the One born King of the Jews!

“ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY”: Pilgrim’s Midweek Bible Study resumes January 7 with Jonah just out of the great fish! Catch up with past sessions online at <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/prophets>.

CATECHESIS: On Thursday, January 8, Pastor Galler will continue both the youth class starting at 4:15 p.m. via Jitsi and the family class starting at 7:00 p.m. in-person in the Conference Room/Library.

ELECTRONIC OFFERINGS: Although Pilgrim does not pay to receive electronic offerings, some electronic donors use their financial institution’s “bill pay”, employer’s EFT/ACH (Electronic Funds Transfer/Automatic Clearing House transactions), or Zelle (www.zellepay.com).

Announcements continue on the back of this insert.