



LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS THE TENTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Trinity's Out to Lunch Bunch, by Lani Ludian.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister & Preaching
Assisting Minister
Pianist

Susan J. Crowell
Richard Moose
Jim Parham

Cantor

Melanie Helling

Lectors

Philip Wessinger
Lisa Rehm

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium -
improvisation by Jim Parham

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.**

We have turned away from your invitation to new life.

We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.

In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,

those we know and those known only to you,

for the sake of the one who came to live among us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!

God forgives us all our sins,

not through our own work,

but through ✝ Jesus Christ, made known to all people.

With all who come to the manger,

rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

Amen.

**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 angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin’s womb.**

Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

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 each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

#289

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob!
Hail the Head of the Nations! Make your praises heard, and say,
LORD, save your people, Israel's remnant!

⁸For I will bring them from the lands of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth –
the blind and the lame
will be among them,
along with expectant mothers and women in labor.
They will return in vast numbers.

⁹They will return weeping and praying.
I will guide them in my mercy.
I will lead them beside streams of water,
along level ground where they will not stumble.
for I am forever a mother and father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.”

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, you nations, proclaim it on faraway shores;
”The one who scattered Israel will gather it in, and watch over it as shepherds watch
their flocks.”¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has delivered the people from a foe
stronger than they. ¹²When the people arrive they will shout for joy on
Zion's heights,
radiant over God's goodness –
over the grain, wine and oil,
over the young of the flocks and herds.
They will flourish like well watered gardens,
and sorrow will be no more.

¹³Then the young women will dance with joy, and the young men and the elderly will
make merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, exchanging gladness
for sorrow. ¹⁴I will satisfy with the fat of the land, and my people their fill of the bounty.”
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The refrain is introduced by the cantor
Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

Psalm Refrain

The musical notation for the Psalm Refrain consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a common time signature. The melody starts on G4 and moves through A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, with a dotted half note on G5. The second staff continues from F5, moving down through E5, D5, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, ending with a dotted half note on G4. The lyrics are: "Wor-ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa - lem, praise your God, O Zi - on." There are hyphens under "Je - ru - sa - lem" and "Zi - on" to indicate syllable placement across notes.

Psalm Tone

The musical notation for the Psalm Tone consists of a single staff of music. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a common time signature. The melody starts on G4, has a quarter rest, then moves to A4, Bb4, and C5. There is a bar line, followed by a quarter rest, then D5, E5, F5, and G5. The staff ends with a double bar line.

- ¹²Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,
- ¹³**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**
- ¹⁴God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
- ¹⁵**God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly. R**
- ¹⁶God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**
- ¹⁸The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.
- ¹⁹**God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**
- ²⁰The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah! **R**

SECOND READING
A reading from Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Praised be the maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! ⁴Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; ⁵God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children – such was God's pleasure and will – ⁶that everyone might praise the glory of God's grace which was freely bestowed on us in God's beloved, Jesus Christ.

⁷It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurable generous is God's favor ⁸given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. ⁹God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ, ¹⁰to be carried out in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things – in heaven and on earth – together in Christ. ¹¹In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God – and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel – we were predestined ¹²to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ. ¹³In Christ you too were chosen.

When you heard the Good News of salvation, the word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the pledge of our inheritance, the deposit paid against the full redemption of a people who are God's own – to the praise of God's glory.

.The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS' SERMON

Stories of Christmas

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Once in Royal David's City

#269

(verses 1 and 4)

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was the mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word not one thing came into being. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself was not the light, he came only to testify to the light. The true light, that illumines all humankind, was coming into the world. Though the world was made through the Word, the world did not recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people did not accept it. But to all who received the Word, who believed in the Word, the Word gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humans, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen the Word's glory, the glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Love has come--a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

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

Gathered in our homes, as we near the conclusion of the Christmas season, let us pray for God's mercy throughout this new year.

All through 2021, O redeeming God, bless your church. Renew the strength of bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and all servants of the church. Assist congregations in paying their bills. Give us hope in your goodness and joy in your salvation.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O bountiful God, bless your earth. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in the balance you intend, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Reveal new ways for us to live in harmony with your creation.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O ruling God, bless the nations of the world. Bring peace and justice where there is violence and abuse of power. Inspire those in authority to serve the common good, and preserve stability in the United States. Protect those who risk danger for the sake of others. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O reconciling God, lead us out of patterns of prejudice and into reconciliation with one another. Help us to honor all persons as members of your family and our siblings under your care. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O loving God, give us wisdom in our resolutions and strength during hardships. Console those who are afraid or lonely. Give jobs to the unemployed. Direct us toward the solution to the world's problems, to feed the hungry, to house the homeless, to serve the neighbor. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O compassionate God, attend to those who suffer. End the pandemic. Restore health care workers. Heal the sick. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Visit those for whom we pray:

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O precious God, pour over us and into us your Holy Spirit, that we may live as your own, and accept the silent petitions we offer. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

At this beginning of 2021, O eternal God, hear our praise for all those whose lives proclaimed your praise, especially those who died during 2020. At our end, bring us with them into the garden watered by your mercy. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

O God, you are the Beginning and the Ending of all. Receive our prayers for the sake of the one who made known to us the mystery of your will, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

☞ **Peace be with you.**

Worshippers are invited to use their phones to text now or make a call later today to extend a message of peace to someone you love and care about.

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,
or by following the link on the homepage of the website, www.trinitylutheran.ws.
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

*Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies (ELW 280)
Music: Qi-fang Liang, Test: Jing-qui Yang, Tr. Mildred A. Wiant*

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Child Is This

#296

**What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

Let us pray. Generous God,
**you came to us as one unknown,
bringing joy and salvation to the earth.
Nourish us at your banquet table,
that with all who welcome your birth
we may proclaim your peace,
revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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 to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(Verses 1 and 4)

#275

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.**

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 for the 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.

*Worshippers who gather with family at home are invited to share the bread and wine with each other using these words spoken directly to each person, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you."
Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes are invited to receive the bread and wine while saying these words, "The body of Christ given for me," and "The blood of Christ shed for me."*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Let All Together Praise Our God

#287

**Let all together praise our God before the
highest throne; today God opens heav'n again and
sends the only Son, and sends the only son.**

**From God's right hand the Son descends, is born an
infant small, and lies in poverty, his bed a
manger in a stall, a manger in a stall.**

**O tender Child, you veil in flesh the splendor
of your might; a servant's garb now wraps the one who
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.**

**Your mother feeds you tenderly, sings you a
lullaby, while angels, hailing David's heir, your
glory magnify, your glory magnify.**

**A wonderful exchange you make: you take
our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.**

**Unlock the door again today that leads
to paradise; the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!**

Refrain

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

What shall we call him, child of the manger?

What name is given in Bethlehem? *Refrain*

His name is Jesus, God ever with us,

God given for us in Bethlehem. *Refrain*

**How can he save us, how can he help us,
born here among us in Bethlehem?** *Refrain*

**Gift of the Father, to human mother,
makes him our brother in Bethlehem.** *Refrain*

**One with the father, he is our Savior.
heaven-sent helper in Bethlehem.** *Refrain*

**Gladly we praise him, love and adore him,
give ourselves to him in Bethlehem.** *Refrain*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us from your very self
with the body and blood of Christ.

Through this mystery, send us forth
to proclaim your promise to a world in need,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

#267

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their
songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hill, and
plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow 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.**

**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

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Let All Together Praise Our God
Setting by J. G. Walther

Love Has Come

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Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies

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