



LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 1, 2023 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



### 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 memory of their niece and nephew, Andrea Bankston Davenport and Trevor Bailey McElvain, by Jeff and Lisa Rehm.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Mary Peters
Assisting Minister	Kay Cook
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Lisa Rehm
Cantor	Melanie Helling
Prayers	John Beckford
Greeters	Linda Morgan Sarah Weeks Andrew Weiner Joyce Weiner
Ushers	Carol Elliott Lani Ludian David Potts
Refreshment Hosts	Lani & Russ Wise
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

*Please stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✚ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

**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 as 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 in light,  
who clothed the sky in light.**

**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.**

THE 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.**

**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

Let us pray. Eternal God, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

#### WORD

#### FIRST READING

Numbers 6:22-27

A reading from Numbers

<sup>22</sup> God said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> "Tell Aaron and his heirs: This is how you will bless the Israelites. Say to them, <sup>24</sup> 'May God bless you and keep you! <sup>25</sup> May God's face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! <sup>26</sup> May God look kindly upon you, and give you peace!' <sup>27</sup> "Thus will they invoke my Name over the Israelites, and then I myself will bless them!"

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.**Psalm  
Refrain**Psalm  
Tone*

- <sup>1</sup>O | LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—
- <sup>2</sup>**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;**  
**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.**
- <sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,
- <sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,**  
**human beings that you should | care for them? R**
- <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less | than divine;  
with glory and hon- | or you crown them.
- <sup>6</sup>**You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;**  
**you have put all things un- | der their feet:**
- <sup>7</sup>all | flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts | of the field,
- <sup>8</sup>**the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,**  
**and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.**
- <sup>9</sup>O | LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in | all the earth! **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:5-11

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Peters

*Please stand as able*

(Verses 1 and 4)

**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.**

*Refrain*

***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. *Refrain***

GOSPEL

Luke 2:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the second chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

Pastor Peters

*Please stand as able*



**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!**

## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.  
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 OF INTERCESSION

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, broaden the church's hospitality and welcome. Open our hearts to any in need of refuge and help, especially those who are persecuted. Prosper the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Bless the Circles of Welcome created in this congregation as they provide care and assistance to refugees. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, restore the health of the soil, the seas, and the air. Increase the joy and praise of all living things. In the coming year strengthen local, national, and international efforts to prevent further harm to the environment. Bring with the new year, a renewed call to be good stewards of your beautiful creation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Liberating God, deliver your people from cruel oppression. Increase justice in every nation and keep the dream of freedom alive. In this new year bring the blessing of peace and put an end to violent conflict throughout the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Uplifting God, raise all who are bowed down by trouble and need. Bring hope to individuals and families living in poverty. Bring acceptance to our LGBTQIA+ siblings. Protect and nurture all children while sustaining those who parent, teach, and care for the young. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, accompany this community in the coming year. Increase our love for one another and the neighbors we serve. Strengthen our call to do your work in the world outside these walls. Enrich our worship and deepen our faith. Sustain our pastors and all who minister in your name. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Healing God, you bring comfort to those who are sick. With a new year comes uncertainties regarding the physical and mental health challenges each of us will face. Console us when we receive an unexpected diagnosis. Bring peace to our racing minds. You walk with us through all that is yet to come. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, the holy innocents who perish in every generation are safe in your keeping. We give you thanks and praise for the all the faithful who have gone before us into everlasting life with you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

OFFERING

*Away in a Manger*  
arr. by John Rogers

Adult Choir

*Please stand as able*

OFFERING HYMN

*What Child is This*  
(verse 3)

#296

**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, God of abundance,  
**receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,  
and gather us at your table of celebration.  
Strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.  
Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

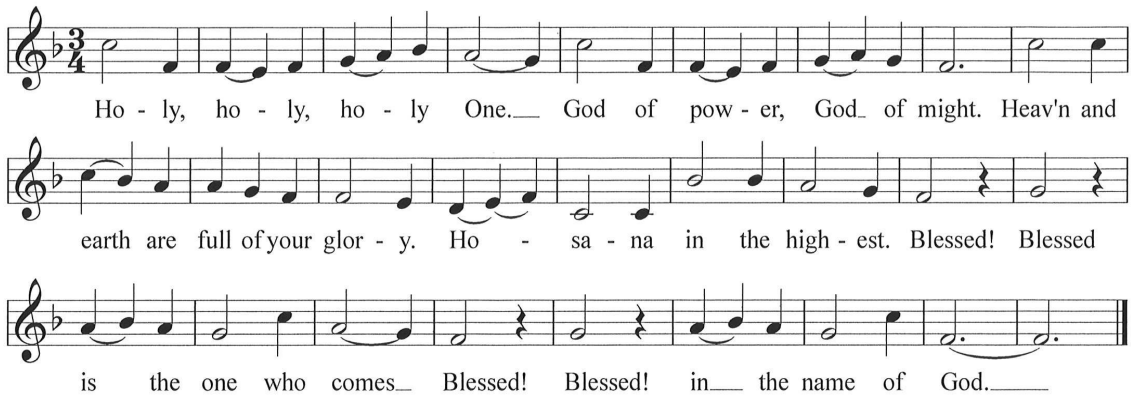
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith  
to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible,  
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One... God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes... Blessed! Blessed! in... the name of God.\_\_\_\_\_

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 for 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.**

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

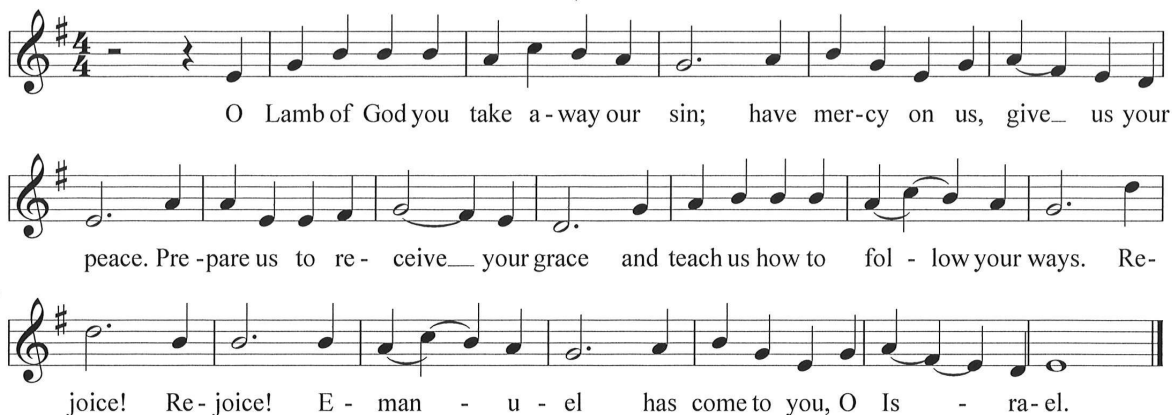
*Please be seated*

## 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 will come forward to receive the bread and wine and then return to their seats to consume the elements.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give\_ us your  
peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive\_\_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born to you! Christ the child was born to you!**

*'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

#284

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,  
that God the Lord of all the earth sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:**

*Refrain*

***Jesus your king is born! Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!***

**Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high: *Refrain***

**The earliest moon of winter time is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. *Refrain***

**O children of the forest free, the angel song is true;  
the holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. *Refrain***

*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***

*Please stand as able*

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

May God, who gathers us in love,  
lead you in pathways of righteousness and peace.  
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,  
lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.  
May God, who fills us with good things,  
lead you in pathways of equity and justice.  
The blessing of the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
be upon you and remain with you forever.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*

#269

**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 that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**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.**

### DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn  
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*



That Boy-child of Mary  
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