



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Nativity. A stained-glass window of Trinity Lutheran Church.



A Service of Lessons & Carols

12.28.2025 | 10:00 a.m. | trinitylutheran.ws

Welcome to Trinity!

A place of love, grace, and belonging, where all, without exception, are loved, honored, valued, affirmed, welcomed, and celebrated.

If we can make you feel more at home, please speak to an usher or greeter.

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

ADULTS & CHILDREN

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex or the Gym for children. Bags for preschoolers are tied with a white ribbon. Bags for elementary age children have no ribbon. After worship, used bags may be placed in the baskets next to the stands.

A nursery hosted by a member of the Trinity staff, Beth Oswald, as well as a small group of rotating volunteers who have been trained in Trinity's Child Protection Policy is available each Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 am to care for infants and toddlers who would prefer enjoying play time instead of attending 10:00 am worship. The nursery is located on the first floor of the Pence Building. Please reach out to a greeter or usher if you need assistance.

PRAYING WITH US

We encourage you to participate fully in our service, as you are comfortable. We invite you to read aloud the **bold text**. Wherever you see (+), you are invited to cross yourself. Other actions are indicated during the service, but none are required.

LET'S GET CONNECTED

If you are new to Trinity, we are thrilled to have you here. If you would like to know more about this congregation and our ministry please share your contact information with us by filling out a Connection Card which can be obtained from the pew racks or baskets. Thank you for your presence among us.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of our four grandsons, Lewis, Will, Thomas, and Frank Evans Harmon, by Terry and Jan Willis.

Serving Today

Susan J. Crowell,
Presiding Minister

Richard Moose,
Assisting Minister

**Jim Parham, Organist &
Choir Director**

Readers

Austin Blythe
Mike Boliek
Vivianne Bolt
Vincent Braxton
John Cox
Cara Stipp
Shannon Whitworth

Cantor/Soloist

Mark Godfrey

Acolyte

Jenna Mast

Nursery

Karen Craig

Praying for Possibilities

Linda Morgan

Greeters

Mark Allen
Sherry Cochran
Linda Morgan
Cathy O'Neill
Pat O'Neill

Ushers

Richard Delap
David Potts
Danny Fagala

Video

Henry Wilcox

Audio

Gregg Alley



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

421 N. Main St. | Greenville, SC | (864) 242 5702 | fax (864) 242 6442 | info@trinitylutheran.ws



God Welcomes All

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

GATHERING HYMN

Please stand as you're able.

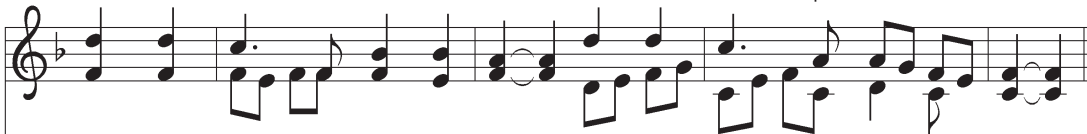
Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re-deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav-ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



Text: Cecil Frances
Alexander,
1818-1895

Music: IRBY,
Henry J. Gauntlett,
1805-1876

DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night the Christ shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.



HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain
Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol;
tr. H. F. Hemy, The
Crown of Jesus
Music, 1864

Music: GLORIA,
French carol: arr.
Edward S. Barnes.
1887-1958

The prayer of the day covers the wide variety of human longing and responsibilities of the church and humanity.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord is with you.

and also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy and welcoming God, we gather this day with wonder still alive among us. The story has been told, the candles have been lit, and yet your word continues to be born — in voices raised in song, in ancient readings made new, in hearts open to hope. As we listen again, to stories of prophets and angels, of journeys and dreams, tune our ears to hear your promise for the world. May these lessons and carols remind us that love enters history quietly, that justice begins in humility, and that peace is possible, even in fragile, broken places. Bless all who gather here and all who long for good news beyond these walls. May the light of Christ — born among the poor, shared with the world, and still shining — guide us deeper into compassion, courage, and Christmas joy; in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Glimmering with Hope

God Speaks to Us Through a Living Word

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness, Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.



HYMN

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time when all the birds had fled, that
 2 With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found; a
 3 The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time is not so round and fair as
 4 O chil - dren of the for - est free, the an - gel - song is true; the



*God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel choirs in - stead; be -
 rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round; but
 was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there. The
 ho - ly child of earth and heav'n is born to - day for you. Come,



fore their light the stars grew dim, and wan - d'ring hunt - ers heard the hymn:
 as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel song rang loud and high:
 chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
 kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Refrain
 Je - sus your king is born! Je - sus is born, in ex - cel - sis glo - ri - a!

Text: Jean de Brébeuf, 1593-1649; tr. Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.

Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.

Text © 1927 The Frederick Harris Music Company. All rights reserved.

SECOND READING

Micah 2:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you will come a ruler for me over Israel, one whose going out are from times long past, from ancient days.

³But God will give them over to their enemies until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of the ruler's siblings will return to the Children of Israel. ⁴The ruler will rise up to shepherd them in the strength of the Lord, by the power of the Name of the Lord their God. They will live in security, for now the ruler's greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵They'll say, "This at last is the one who will be our peace! When Assyria invades our land and tramples our fortresses, we will raise up again the invaders seven—no, eight! - shepherds, - leaders of the people."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Text: Phillips Brooks,
1835-1893

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Music: ST. LOUIS,
Lewis H. Redner,
1831-1908

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!



THIRD READING

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸Upon arriving the angel said to Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!" ²⁹Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel's greeting meant. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³This child will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of this kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of God for the people of God.

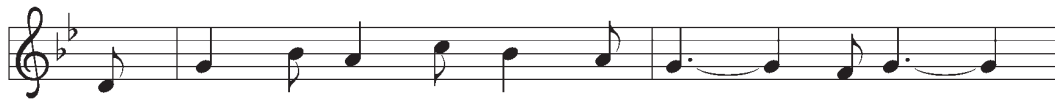
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol;
 para. Sabine Baring-
 Gould, 1834-1924

Music: GABRIEL'S
 MESSAGE, Basque
 carol.

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis
H. Redner, 1831-1908

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, who was righteous, was unwilling to expose Mary to public disgrace, so planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, heir of David, do not be afraid to wed Mary, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save the people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a child, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴Joseph awoke from sleep and did as the angel of God commanded: they were married, but had no marital relations until Mary had borne a son; and they named him Jesus.

The Word of God for the people of God.

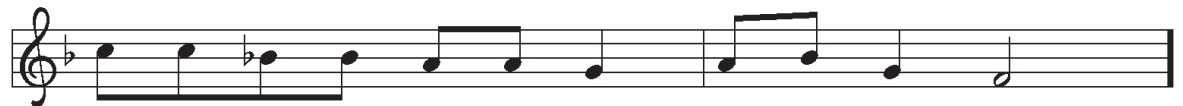
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Let Our Gladness Have No End



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, Hal - le - lu - jah!
3 See the love - liest bloom - ing rose, Hal - le - lu - jah!
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, Hal - le - lu - jah!



for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to



save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol,
15th cent.; tr. unknown

Music: NARODIL
SE KRISTUS PAN,
Bohemian carol,
15th cent.



FIFTH READING

Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those God favors!" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Away in a Manger

HYMN

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low-ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn-ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905

¹After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." ³When Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the leaders of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the ruler, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered the child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.



HYMN

What Child Is This

Text: William C. Dix,
1837-1898.

Music:
GREENSLEAVES,
English ballad,
16th cent.

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

¹In the beginning was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. ²The Word was with God from the beginning. ³Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴In the Word was life, and that life was the light of humanity— ⁵and the Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness did not grasp it. ⁶Then came one named John, sent from God with a testimony, ⁷to testify about the Light, so that through this testimony everyone might believe. ⁸John himself was not the Light; but came only to testify about the Light—the true Light that enlightens all people. ⁹The Word was coming into the world— ¹⁰was in the world— but was not recognized by the world even though the world was made through the Word. ¹¹The Word was rejected by those who were the Word's very own people. ¹²Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God— ¹³children born not of blood, nor urge of flesh nor human will— but born of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us; we saw the Word's glory— the glory of a parent's only child— full of grace, full of truth.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible,
 b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU,
 F. Seguin, *Recueil de
 noëls composés en
 langue provençale*,
 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's
 Hosanna! Music
 (ASCAP), c/o Integrity
 Media, Inc., 1000 Cody
 Road, Mobile, AL
 36695.



RESPONSIVE READING

Please stand as you're able.

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In the light of Jesus, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of Christ's life
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

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.

God Invites Us to the Table

ANTHEM

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella (Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle)

Music: French Traditional

Text: French trans. Emile Blémont (1839–1927);

English trans. E. Cuthbert Nunn (1868–1914) (adap.)

Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle, Un flambeau, courons au berceau!
C'est Jésus, bonnes gens du hameau, Le Christ est né; Marie appelle,
Ah! Ah! Ah! Que la Mère est belle, Ah! Ah! Ah! Que l'Enfant est beau!

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella! Bring a torch, to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village; Christ is born and Mary's calling.
Ah! ah! beautiful is the Mother! Ah! ah! beautiful is her Son!

The Peace has been exchanged in worship since the time of the first Christians. It is a profound act to offer the miraculous peace of God to one another before we join in communion with God and each other.

The Offertory is when we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to God as our initial act of thanksgiving. This collection is a visible reminder that our whole lives are God's, and a part of what God has given us we give back in thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to our website trinitylutheran.ws, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



C'est un tort, quand l'Enfant sommeille, C'est un tort de crier si fort.
Taisez-vous, l'un et l'autre, d'abord! Au moindre bruit, Jésus s'éveille.
Chut! chut! Il dort à merveille, Chut! chut! Voyez comme il dort!

It is wrong when the child is sleeping, It is wrong to talk so loud;
Silence, all, as you gather around, Lest your noise should waken Jesus.
Hush! hush! see how fast He slumbers; Hush! hush! see how fast He sleeps!

Doucement, dans l'étable close, Doucement, venez un moment!
Approchez! Que Jésus est charmant! Comme il est blanc! Comme il est rose!
Do! Do! Que l'Enfant repose! Do! Do! Qu'il rit en dormant!

Softly to the little stable. Softly for a moment come;
Look and see how charming is Jesus, How He is warm, His cheeks are rosy
Hush! hush! see how the child is sleeping; Hush! hush! see how He smiles in dreams.

OFFERING HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God

Verse 1, 2, 3, 5

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a

high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your

sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 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.

6 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!



Let us pray. Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE 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 glo - ry. Ho -
sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed is — the one who
comes — Blessed! Blessed! in — the name of God. —

The Sanctus (holy, holy, holy) recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, overwhelmed by the presence of God in the sanctuary, and these words were sung by the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Sanctus reminds us that this is an offering of the whole creation, which joins in singing these praises.

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

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It links our daily bread to the spiritual food we receive in Communion.

**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.

In an effort to further embrace Trinity's mission of welcome, affirmation, and hospitality, both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice.

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice— wine in the larger section and grape juice in the smaller section. Christ's grace and forgiveness is found in the bread, wine, and grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available.

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the wafer into the chalice to receive Communion by intinction.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lamb of God

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

From
Everlasting Light

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Rev. David Eck



teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re - jice! Re - jice! E -
man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra - el.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876, alt.

Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900 800.442.3358.

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Text: English
Traditional, adpt.
Jim Parham

Music: English
Traditional, arr.
John Stainer,
1840-190

300

The First Noel

1 The first No - el the an-gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing
3 And by the light of that same star wise
4 This star drew near to the north - west, o'er
5 Then en - tered in so joy - ful - ly, those

cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in the east be - yond them far; and to the
ma - gi came from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem it took its rest; and there it
ma - gi bowed up - on their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep-ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave great light, and so it con -
king was their in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop and stay right o - ver the
there in his pres - ence their gold, and

night that was so deep.
tin - ued both day and night.
star where - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.



Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German
carol, 15th cent.;
tr. Theodore Baker,
1851-1934, sts. 1-2;
Harriet R. Krauth,
1845-1925, st. 3;
John C. Mattes,
1876-1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST
EIN ROS, *Alte
catholische geistliche
Kirchengesänge*,
Köln, 1599; arr.
Michael Praetorius,
1571-1621

Please stand as able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
God's grace.

Amen.

After Communion, we give thanks for being part of the communion of God's life and for being fed so that we may go out to feed and serve others in our world.

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.**

God Sends Us to Love and Serve the World

BLESSING

The Triune God—
 holy Mystery beyond all knowing,
 Word made flesh for the life of the world,
 Breath who abides and never departs—
 (+) bless you with grace without end,
 peace born this night, and joy that no darkness can overcome. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Please stand as able.

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

Text: Isaac
 Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH,
 George F. Handel,
 1685-1759, adapt.; arr.
 Lowell Mason, 1792-
 1872



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

DISMISSAL

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your hearts and homes this Christmas. Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

Following worship everyone is invited to gather for refreshments and fellowship in the back corner of the Gym.

Church Staff

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and Digital Media Manager

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator and Pastoral Associate

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Jerry R. Wesley
Coordinator for Mental Health Wellness

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

Congregation Council

Lani Wise, <i>Vice-President</i>	Jaime Fivecoat	Jeff Rehm
Mike Boliek, <i>Treasurer</i>	Angie Hager	Margaret Roth
Donna Potts, <i>Secretary</i>	Deirdre Hixson	Kerry Sease
Lexi Thomas-Harewood, <i>Youth</i>	Dean Hybl	Chris Sorenson
Carl Brune	Patrick Morgan	Chris Wannemacher
Danny Fagala	Richard Moose	

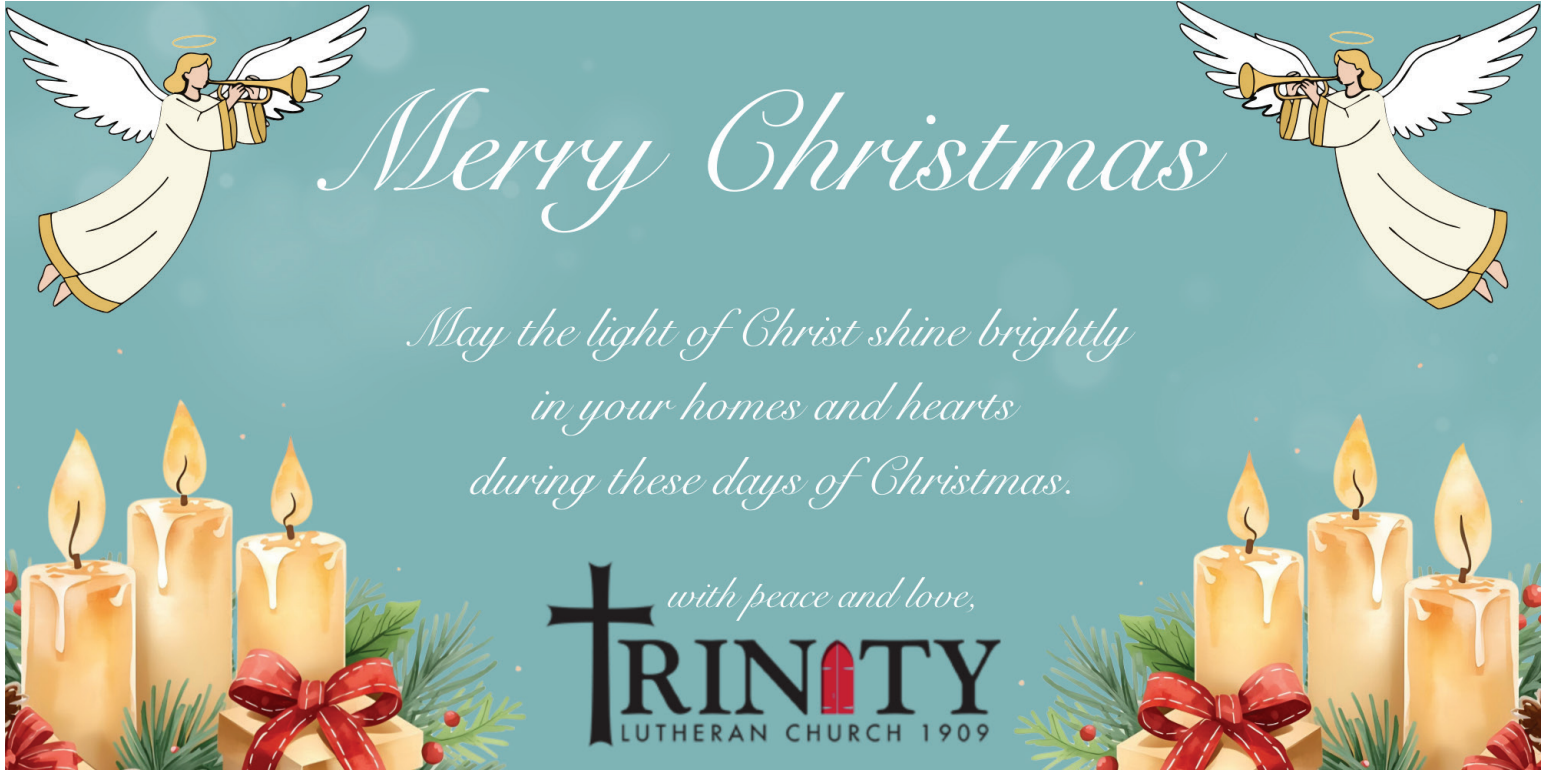
Having heard the Gospel and having been fed at communion, the final act of our common worship is the Dismissal. It is not an afterthought, but an integral part of the service. Jesus' final action on earth was to send his followers into the world to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey all he had commanded. And so we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.



Announcements

December 28, 2025

Patrick Preacher is away on vacation today.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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