

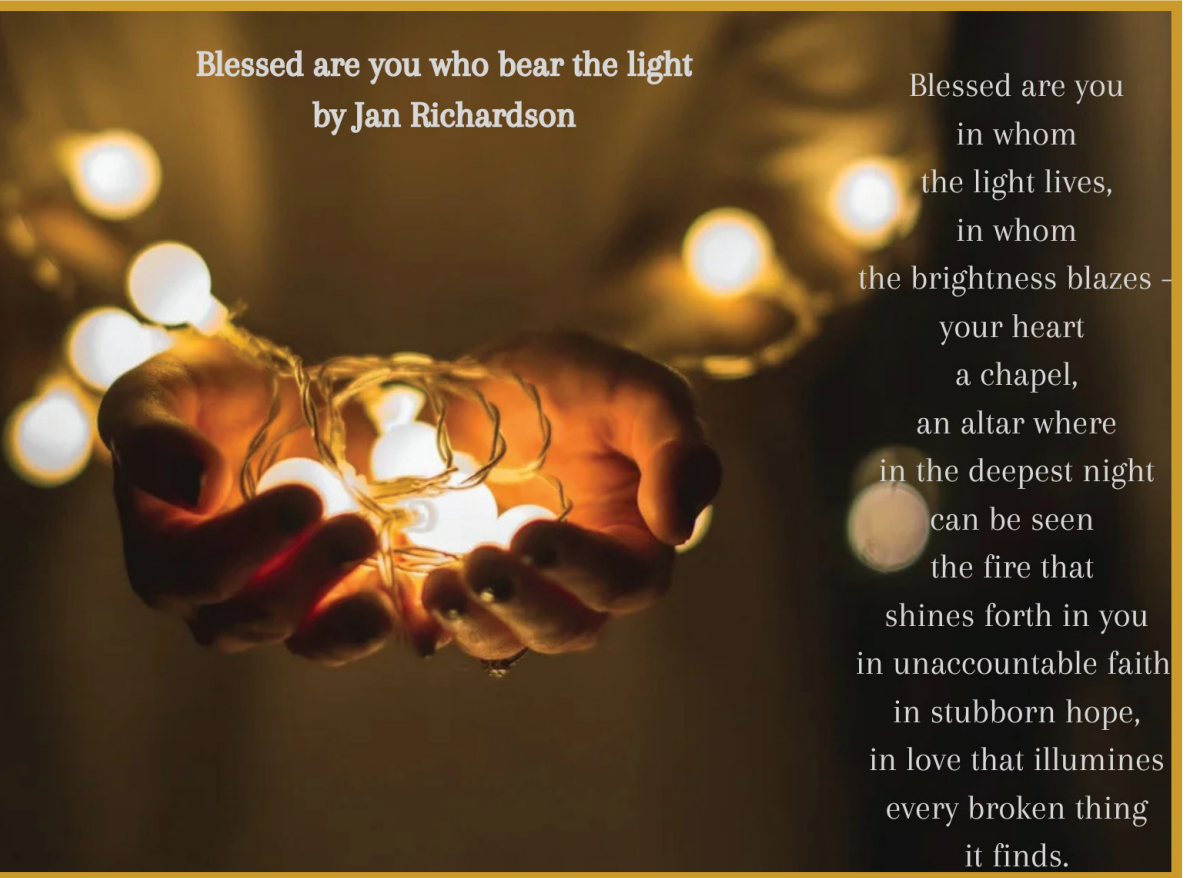


TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Blessed are you who bear the light
by Jan Richardson

Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify
to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness
to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow
and grief.



Blessed are you
in whom
the light lives,
in whom
the brightness blazes -
your heart
a chapel,
an altar where
in the deepest night
can be seen
the fire that
shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith
in stubborn hope,
in love that illumines
every broken thing
it finds.



The Second Sunday of Christmas

01.04.2026 | 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 their children and grandchildren, by Carl and Debbie Brune.

Serving Today

Susan J. Crowell,
Presiding Minister and
Preaching

Patrick D. Preacher,
Assisting Minister

**Jim Parham, Organist &
Choir Director**

Lector
Andrew Morris

Prayers
Bri Kerbuski

Cantor
Melanie Helling

Guitar
Duke Barsody

Communion Assistant
Rachel Colburn

Acolyte
Harper Roth

**Children's Worship
Opportunity**
Jessica Bigby and
Margaret Roth

Praying for Possibilities
Dedra Johnson

Refreshment Hosts
JL, Clayton, and Dovie Dykes

Greeters
Mark Allen, Joe Druga,
Sonny Patrick, Valerie Patrick,
and Sarah Weeks

Ushers
Danny Fagala, David Nichols
Karen Nichols, and David Potts

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you're able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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

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

In the confession we admit the ways we have not lived as we were created to live, both individually, and corporately, and ask for forgiveness. The pastor declares to us the wonderful grace of God's promise of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the absolute remission of guilt.

Text: Medieval Latin
carol; tr. John Mason
Neale, 1818-1866

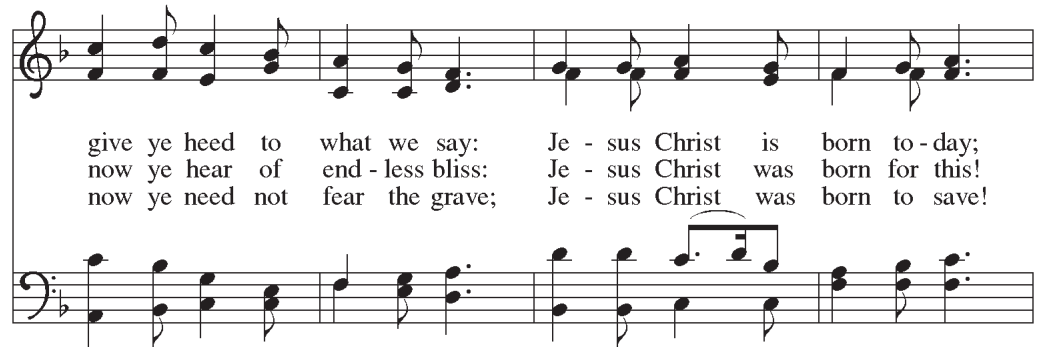
ENTRANCE HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

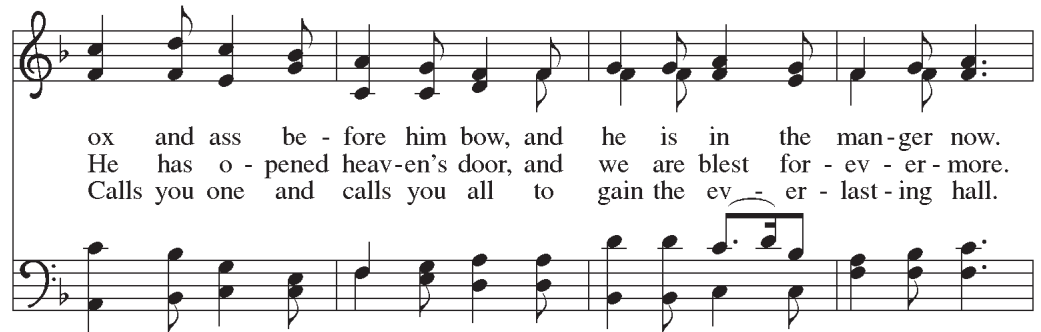
Music: IN DULCI
JUBILO, German
carol, 14th cent.; arr.
Robert L. Pearsall,
1795-1856



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!



GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.
And also with you.

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.

God of light and love, we gather in a world that knows both brilliance and shadow. We confess that darkness can feel heavy – in systems that wound, in fears that shrink our hope, in moments when life seems fragile. Yet we trust this truth: your light keeps shining. It flickers in courage and compassion, glows in justice-seeking and mercy-making, and burns bright in the love that refuses to give up. Kindle that light within us today. Make us bearers of hope, agents of healing, warriors of justice. Remind us that darkness will never win the day. Your light is stronger, steadier, and more enduring than anything the world can throw at us. Give us the stamina and strength to shine bright with love and light; through Jesus, whose birth we continue to celebrate.

Amen.

Please be seated.

God Speaks to Us Through a Living Word

We follow a three-year cycle of readings called a Lectionary. These are lessons being heard in congregations from many denominations throughout the world on this day.

The divine name, YHWH (pronounced YAH-wey), is the English transliteration of the four consonants of the original Hebrew. This is the name God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush, and is an ancient and extremely holy name for God. One of its possible meanings is "I am that I am."

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says YHWH:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O GOD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a parent to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of YHWH, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away,
say, "The one who scattered Israel will gather
and will keep them as a shepherd does a flock."



- ¹¹ For YHWH has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
- ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of YHWH,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
- ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.
- ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says YHWH.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is a hymn or poem. The psalms cover the whole range of the relationship between God and God's people. The Book of Psalms, while a "book" of the Bible, consists of 150 hymns intended to be sung.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship* Year A © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

Accompanied by Child Protection trained adults, children are invited to leave worship after the children's sermon to go hear the scripture read in ways more appropriate for their age. Using lectionary stories heard in worship each Sunday, the children not only hear scripture, but enjoy a related activity such as a game, craft, or music. Children return to worship during the sharing of the peace and in time to participate in the celebration of Holy Communion.

PSALM

Psalm 147:12-20

Psalm Refrain



Psalm Tone



- 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**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Glow Words versus Gloom Words



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as able. Verse 1 only.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William F. Cummings, 1831-1915

During worship, there is always a reading from a Gospel. We stand to indicate the importance we place on Jesus' words and actions.

GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² The Word was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. ⁴ In the Word was life, and that life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John, ⁷ as a witness to testify to the light, so that through John's testimony everyone might believe. ⁸ John himself was not the Light; but came only to testify to the Light. ⁹ The true Light that enlightens all people was coming into the world.

¹⁰ The Word was in the world but was not recognized by the world even though the world was made through the Word. ¹¹ The Word was rejected by those who were the Word's very own people. ¹² Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God, ¹³ children born not of blood, nor urge of flesh, nor human will, but born of God.

¹⁴ And 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. ¹⁵ John testified to the Word and cried out, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" ¹⁶ From the Word's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the Only Begotten One, Jesus Christ, who is also God, who is close to Abba God's heart, who has made God known.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Christ's Light: Brightness in a Broken World



HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand as able.

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

In the Creed, we respond to the proclamation of God's Word by affirming the historic faith of the Church. We "believe" (from the Latin credere, literally "to put one's heart into") because we offer our trust in the story of God's creating, redeeming, and remaining with the world. "We" believe because the church as a whole, the Body of Christ, carries and strengthens the faith of each individual. Also note that when it is not capitalized, the word "catholic" is defined as universal or inclusive.

The Prayers of Intercession are always responsive, because everyone gives voice to the supplications. We include prayers for others throughout the world, in our Synod, and those connected to our congregation.

APOSTLE'S CREED

God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we 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

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

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this congregation. As this new year dawns, guide us in new and fresh ways of being the body of Christ, creating a community of belonging, and answering your call to serve neighbor. Answer us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Help us to heal what we have already damaged and learn from our mistakes. Answer us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, Queer and not, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Bless those who continue to worship you though they have experienced rejection in your name. Let us seek you in unexpected places, praising you in many tongues. Answer us, O God.

Your mercy is great.



You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Answer us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Allow us to experience your true presence at the altar as well as our fellowship tables. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Allow there to always be room and enough for more as your kin-dom in this place continues to expand. Release us from society's expectation of who should be at your table. Answer us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in the dawn of each new day. As we step into a new year, we do not place our trust in our own resolve, but in your mercy made new each morning. Where the road ahead feels uncertain or heavy, anchor us again to the promise of the cross, where you have already met us with forgiveness and life. Send us into our daily callings as signs of your care for the neighbor and the world you so love. Keep us steadfast in hope, honest in repentance, and bold in love, until all our days are gathered into your eternal mercy. Answer us, O God

Your mercy is great.

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Answer us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.

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.

God Invites Us to the Table

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Saw Three Ships

Adult Choir

Music: Traditional English Carol arranged by Carl Nygard; Text: William Sandys

Christmas day, Christmas day, Christmas day in the morning.
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day in the morning.
O, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day,
on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day in the morning.

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.



The word, "amain," means "with all one's might."



OFFERING HYMN

Verse 3.

What Child Is This

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!

Text: William C. Dix,
1837-1898

Music:
GREENSLEAVES,
English ballad,
16th cent.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

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:

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.

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. —

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.**

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. 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.

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.

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 MUSIC

Lamb of God

From
Everlasting Light

© Text 2011
Rev. David Eck

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.

On Christmas Night

1 On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to hear the news the
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re - deem - er
3 When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then life and health come
4 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels

an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de - parts be - fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark - ness we have light, which

hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An - gels re - joice with us and
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est

mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?
sing, all for to see the new - born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good - will. A - men."

Text: Luke Wadding,
d. 1686, alt

Music: SUSSEX
CAROL, English



Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Text: Polish carol; tr.
Edith M. G. Reed,
1885-1933, alt.

Music: W ZLOBIE
LEZY, Polish carol



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: James
Montgomery,
1771-1854, alt., sts.
1-3; *Salisbury Hymn*
Book, 1857, st. 4

Music: REGENT
SQUARE, Henry T.
Smart, 1813-1879

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The piece is in 4/4 time. The lyrics are arranged in four numbered lines, followed by a bridge section and a refrain. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the bass line.



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

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as able.

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Amen.

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.

God Sends Us to Love and Serve the World

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
(+) bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
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 its 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

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.

Text: Isaac Watts,
1674-1748

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

DISMISSAL

Beloved Community,
Go now into the world,
carrying the light that shines in the darkness.
Do not be afraid of the shadows you meet,
for the light of love, justice, and truth cannot be overcome.
Leave this place
to seek what is healing,
to challenge what is unjust,
and to reflect the grace you have received.
The light of Christ goes with you,
shining in you and through you –
today and always.
Thanks be to God.

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.



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

Richard Moose, <i>Vice-President</i>	Jessica Bigby	Pat Morgan
Mike Boliek, <i>Treasurer</i>	Carl Brune	Jeff Rehm
Margaret Roth, <i>Secretary</i>	William Bryant, Jr.	Matthew Wessinger
Clayton Dykes, <i>Youth</i>	Danny Fagala	Carl Witherspoon
Lynn Andrews	Jaime Fivecoat	
Chris Barsody	Deirdre Hixson	



Activities & Opportunities



January 4, 2026

Our Christian Sympathy is expressed to Sarah Weeks and her family at the death of her sister.

Hospital Patient: Jeanne Blinkoff, discharged.

Poinsettias may be picked up after Church today.

Trinity Children (Kindergarten - Grade 5) will gather on Sunday, January 11 following worship. The group will meet in the Youth Room for lunch, followed by activities to learn more about the Epiphany Season.

Trinity Youth (Grades 6 – 12) will gather today after worship and walk downtown for lunch and ice skating at Ice on Main. Lunch will be provided, and the cost for skating is \$10.00.

Offering Tellers Needed. The Church Office staff is looking for volunteers to count offering and prepare the bank deposit each week. We need two volunteers (non-related individuals) to count on Thursday mornings at 9:30 am. The process should take an hour or less. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Kay Cook in the Church Office.

Men's Reflection and Fellowship Group. A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 am to 8:00 am in the Parlor. Calvin Harmon leads and facilitates this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Upcoming dates include January 14 and February 11.

Queer-led Worship for January will take place on January 8 at 6:30 pm in the Gym. Note this is not the first Thursday of the month as is typical because the first Thursday is New Year's Day. Please consider joining in worship. New Queer leaders are always welcome! Contact Patrick Preacher via text, 864-483-2590, if you are interested in leading. Allies are also welcome to support the service as greeters or refreshment hosts.

Love Wins will gather on Thursday, January 15, for some social time together and discussion/planning for the new year. The group will meet at 6:30 at The Southern Growl, 155 N. Buncombe Road, Greer. Contact Angie McCormack ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws to sign up or for more information.

The Trinity Lutheran Church History Reading Group will meet on Sunday, January 18, following worship in the Church Parlor to discuss The Great Influenza by John Barry. David Potts will lead the discussion. All are welcome to attend. Contact Don Todd at dktodd47@gmail.com, 803-517-8129 or Bob Schirmer at rwschirmer@gmail.com, 419-348- 6508 with questions. A video link will be available.

Trinity Food Pantry. Trinity will continue the Second Sunday Food Drive in an effort to maintain a full Pantry for regular and emergency distribution. Those who are able are invited to donate on Sunday January 11 and February 8 between 9:30-10:00 am by dropping off items at the Red Canopy Door. The following items are most needed: dried beans (16 oz), peanut butter (16 oz), cereal, canned fruit, rice (2 lb. bag), pasta sauce, canned meat, canned vegetables, and toilet paper. Please contact Patrick Preacher via text or email to volunteer or with questions at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws or 864-483-2590.

A Class on Spiritual Disciplines. In The Awakened Brain by Lisa Miller, research shows that those who regularly participate in spiritual disciplines are 20% more resilient than those who do not. A small group will gather on Thursdays, January 22 and January 29, at 10:00 am in rooms 12 and 13 to learn more about and practice several spiritual disciplines designed to encourage, uplift, soothe, comfort, and connect to the vastness of God's love and grace for all of God's beloveds. This small group gathering will be facilitated by Renee Heiliger and Pastor Susan Crowell and will be limited to 15 participants. Participants may register for one or both sessions as each session will focus on different practices. To register for this learning opportunity, reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws.

Week at a Glance

SUN, JAN 4	MON, JAN 5	WED, JAN 7	THURS, JAN 8	FRI, JAN 9	SUN, JAN 11
11:30 am Trinity Youth	6:00 pm Fiber Arts Group in MP Room	6:00 pm Handbells 7:00 pm Adult Choir	6:30 pm Queer-led Worship in Gym	10:00 am Mahjong Group in Parlor	11:30 am Trinity Children