

the light of the world

*Jesus...*

**HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**FESTIVAL LITURGY OF CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2025**  
**6:00 P.M.**

*In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

*Asterisk (\*) indicates that worshipers should please stand as able.*

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold** typeface.*

*Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.*

*The worship livestream begins 10 minutes before the service.*

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## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **TOLLING OF THE STEEPLE BELL**

*Please be seated in prayerful silence during the prelude, which begins our worship together.*

### **PRELUDE**

Deacon Ned Perwo, Director of Music Ministry

Eric McLaughlin, piano Victoria McLaughlin, flute & vocals

*The Holy Infant's Lullaby*

-Norman Dello Joio

*I Wonder As I Wander*

-John Jacob Niles

*Cradle Song*

-Edvard Grieg

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

-Norman Dello Joio

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Mary V. Farnham

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness has not overcome it.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have beheld Christ's glory,**

the glory as of a father's only son, **full of grace and truth.**

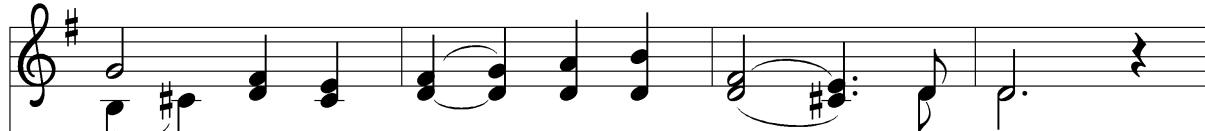
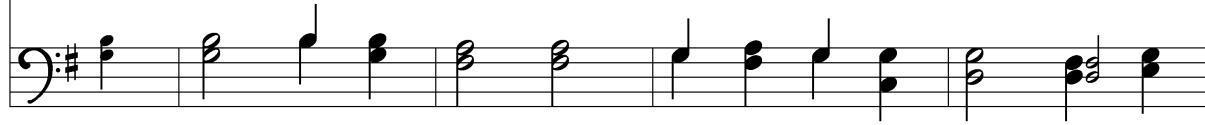
In the Word was life, **and the life was the light of all people.**

## \*GATHERING HYMN

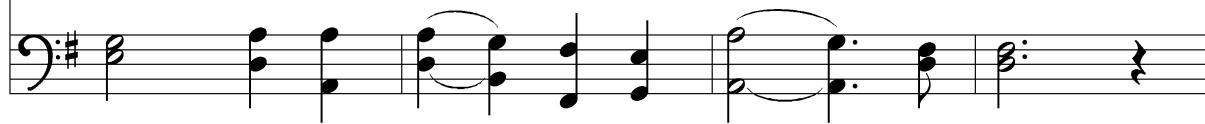
## O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



*Refrain*

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - - re - - mus Do - - mi - num.  
 O come, let us a - - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## \*GREETING

Today Christ is born: alleluia, alleluia!

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.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

- Roy Churchman

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.  
<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



# FIRST CAROL

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus,  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it



3  
 born to set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and  
 hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
 born a child and yet a king, born to reign in  
 rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -



6  
 sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*Glory to God 83*

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC (STUTTGART 8.7.8.7): Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

## SECOND LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

- Diane Churchman

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

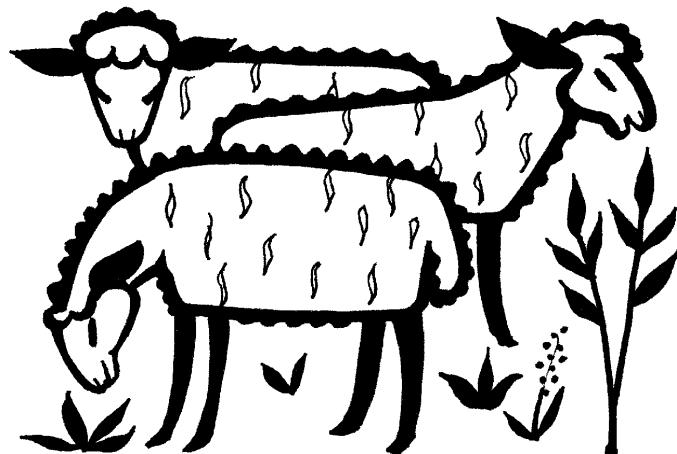
<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.



## SECOND CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

(Stanzas 1 & 2)

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-dring 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!

*The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>38</sup>Then 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.

# THIRD CAROL

## *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (Stanzas 1 & 2)

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."

*Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

<sup>18</sup>Now 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.

<sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us."



# FOURTH CAROL

*All Earth is Hopeful*  
(Stanzas 1, 2 & 4)

D D/F# Em A

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.

D G Em A A<sup>7</sup>

yel sur - co\_a-bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

Bm F#m G D

mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how -  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

Bm F#m <sup>1-3</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> A <sup>4</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> F#m/A D

cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver-dad. dar-nos li-ber-tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

<sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



## FIFTH CAROL

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice 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 was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save!

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

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866  
 Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<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.

# \*HYMN OF THE DAY

*The First Noel*

(Stanzas 1 & 2)

1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the  
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing  
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it gave  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their  
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher-ev - er it went.  
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

*Refrain*

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,  
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## \*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



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.*

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne.

Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it.

Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields,  
and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war.

Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbor.  
Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another,  
especially those who are sick or struggling.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth.

We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed.

Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus.

We give thanks for the lives of all who now enjoy the full presence of God, including those for whom Christmas gifts have been given.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

[Presiding Minister]

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 the Prince of Peace be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **OFFERING**

(Scan To Give)



Our offering is an expression of thanks for God's love of us. We give with grateful hearts, aware that many gifts are given **to** us in order to pass **through** us to others! As faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us, our generosity as a faith family makes a difference- beneath our steeple, in our community, in our Synod, within the ELCA, and around this world God loves so very much.

~The Stewardship Team~

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*Please pass the Friendship Registers at this time.*

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### **OFFERTORY**

-The Holy Trinity Ringers

*Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*

Tune: BRING A TORCH

Arr. by Ron Mallory



## \*OFFERTORY HYMN

## 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 - silent 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!

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

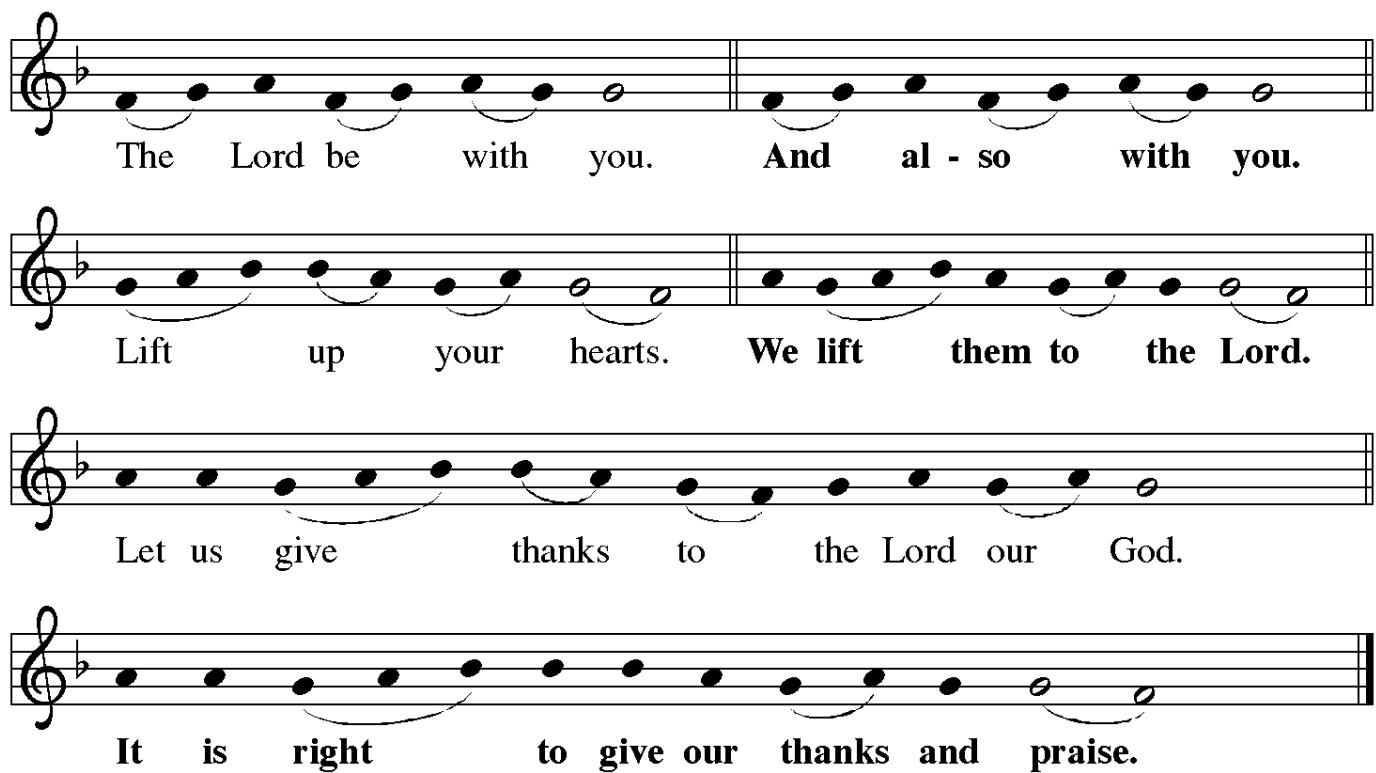
Let us pray.

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

ELW



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with each staff containing a portion of the text. The first staff: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff: "It is right to give our thanks and praise."

## \*PREFACE

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:

## \*SANCTUS

*Intro (first time only)*

*All*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Bles - sed is the one who came,

God of hosts, all praise be given! All your glo - ry fills the earth;  
bring - ing love and light di - vine. Bles - sed is the king who comes

all your pow - er fills the heavens. Glo -

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo -

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

## \*THE 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.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.

Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

*All baptized Christians who believe the Lord is truly present in this sacrament are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Communicants file forward from the center aisle. They receive the consecrated host, then choose either a prefilled cup of consecrated red wine or consecrated white grape juice from the tray held by Communion assistant. Communicants place used glass in separate tray and then return to their seats by the side aisles. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.*

## AGNUS DEI



O Lamb of God from Beth - le - hem, where Ma - ry gave you birth,



grant us your mer - cy, gra - cious Lord, Re deem - er of the earth.



O Lamb of God, for - give us, for we still live in sin.



O, come to us, a - bide with us, and grant us peace with - in.



# COMMUNION HYMN

Silent Night

1 *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht!* All is calm,  
 2 *Si - lent night, ho - ly night!* Shep - herds quake  
 3 *Si - lent night, ho - ly night!* Son of God,

*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
 all is bright round yon virgin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## \*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

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

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **\*BLESSING**

Pastor Mary

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,

✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**



# \*SENDING HYMN

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and heart floods, rocks, hills, and  
 3. No more let sin and sorrow grow; nor thorns in - the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes in - 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  
 sing, and heav'n, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing. joy.  
 joy, found, love, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found. far as, far as the curse is found. and won - ders, won - ders of his love.  
 heav'n and na - ture sing, sing.

## **\*DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

## Deacon Ned

Festivity on “Here We Come A-Caroling” -Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

# “Thank You” to Our Musicians

# UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr | Friday, December 26, 2025

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist | Saturday, December 27, 2025

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs | Sunday, December 28, 2025

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus | Thursday, January 1, 2026

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Friday, January 2, 2026

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

# Announcements

## LIVESTREAMING WORSHIP:

Wed. 7 a.m.; Sat. 5 p.m.; Sun. 8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Visit our website for solutions to gather remotely,  
including downloadable orders of worship.

[www.holytrinity-elca.org](http://www.holytrinity-elca.org)

Livestream Worship: click **WORSHIP > LIVESTREAM**

Church Calendar of Events: click **EVENTS**

Items of Interest and Information: click **NEWS**

**THE NURSERY** is located under the narthex (rear of the sanctuary) and accessed via the descending staircase. Nursery is available to all families who wish to use it; families are asked to supervise their own children--there is no designated nursery attendant. Video from the sanctuary can be viewed on the nursery TV. Turn it on using the TV remote, wait for it to boot up and select "HDMI 1" for the video feed. Audio from the sanctuary can be heard through the nursery speakers. Please do not adjust TV volume.  
Please note: children are **always** welcomed in worship!

**Eternal Light, Bread & Wine and Bulletins** are given to the glory of God by John Cooney in loving memory of his sister, Jean, and in honor of her birthday.

## **LET US KNOW YOU WERE HERE: THE FRIENDSHIP REGISTER**

Signing the friendship register tells us you were present and gives you a chance to provide or update contact info. Please share your e-mail address to receive on-line updates about HT happenings. Our Holy Trinity constitution requires that active confirmed members receive Holy Communion and make a "contribution of record" at least once every other year. Using an offering envelope from the pew ensures that your gift is properly credited.

Visitors, please sign the friendship register, phone or e-mail us!

**JANUARY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JANUARY 7** Join us at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays in the new year to preview, learn about and discuss the upcoming weekend's Gospel. On January 7 we'll study Matthew 3:13-17, the baptism of our Lord, and also discuss our Lutheran understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Pastor Mary leads the discussion.

**JUSTICE & PEACE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:**

Have you ever heard the phrase, "Kill the Indian in him, and save the man"? This famous quote is from an 1892 speech given by Captain Richard Pratt. It expresses the philosophy central to the development of Christian boarding schools for Indigenous children across the U.S. and in Canada. Their aim was to "civilize" and, within the continental United States, to "Americanize" the Indian. To learn more about this heartbreak portion of our history, you are invited to join the Holy Trinity Justice and Peace Advocacy Team in collaboration with the Manasquan Quaker Meetinghouse and Trinity Episcopal Church of Asbury Park for a screening of the documentary, *Sugarcane*, on **Saturday, January 10, at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall**. The film tells the story of the 2021 discovery of unmarked graves on the grounds of an Indian residential school run by the Catholic Church in Canada. "After years of silence, the forced separation, assimilation, and abuse many children experienced at these segregated boarding schools was brought to light, sparking a national outcry against a system designed to destroy Indigenous communities." "Accumulating immense emotional powers as it methodically uncovers a grave injustice, *Sugarcane* is one of the most compelling and important documentaries of the year."



Please join us in Holy Trinity's Fellowship Hall on January 10 for a screening and brief discussion of the film.

Please RSVP with the QR code or online under EVENTS.

**HEALING SERVICE:**

Please join us on **Thurs., Jan., 22 at 11 a.m.** Our healing service includes



Scripture, song, prayer, lighting of candles, laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and Holy Communion. An assisting minister and ushers are needed. Please sign with the QR code, online under EVENTS or through the church office.

## **HEALING SERVICE LUNCHEON:**



Social Ministry will be hosting a luncheon in Fellowship Hall following the Jan. 22 healing service. Please RSVP for the luncheon with the QR code, online under EVENTS or through the church office.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Join us on Sunday, January 25 immediately following 8:45 a.m. worship (approximately 9:45 a.m.). Please note: there will be only one worship service on Jan. 25; we will worship at 5 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 24, as usual. There will be no Sunday School on Jan. 25; however, there will be an activity for children whose parents attend the meeting. If weather prevents the meeting from taking place on Jan. 25, it will be rescheduled for Sunday, February 1, following 8:45 a.m. worship. Should this occur, we'll send an eblast and leave word on the HT website homepage.

A quorum (15%) of voting members is required to conduct the meeting; for us this is 75 persons. The meeting agenda will include voting on the budget, election of Council, Nominating Committee, and Endowment Committee members.

**INTERESTED IN HELPING TO COUNT THE WEEKLY OFFERING?** The Finance Team is scheduling weekly offering counters for 2026 and is seeking additional members who are willing to serve. The count takes place each Sunday following 8:45 a.m. worship. The commitment includes approximately six Sundays a year of volunteering. (We are flexible.) You will be teamed up with another member of HT, so it is a great way to get to know other members. If you are interested in hearing more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Ralph Jensen at [Ralphjensen@aol.com](mailto:Ralphjensen@aol.com).

**ONE WARM COAT:** We will continue to collect coats through January, so those who receive new coats through December can donate the ones they no longer use. We make sure they go to organizations that supply warm coats to those in need.

**540 HT INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS!** Way to go, Holy Trinity! Spread the word! You can officially follow us @holytrinity\_squan. Please email any photos you'd like to submit for posting to [instagram@holytrinity-elca.org](mailto:instagram@holytrinity-elca.org).

**MANASQUAN MINISTERIUM FOOD PANTRY:** As we turn the page to a new year, the Pantry volunteers would like to thank you for all the support you have given throughout 2025. Without you, we would not be able to continue this ministry about which we feel so passionate. We wish you and your loved ones a joyous, faith-filled new year.

**Do you or someone you know need confidential assistance from our community food pantry?**

**Please call (732) 223-0898 to contact the ecumenical food pantry located on the lower level of Manasquan Presbyterian Church (South St. and Virginia Ave.).**

**{Or...do you need assistance and live in Brick or Point? Contact St. Thomas Lutheran Church Food Pantry at (732) 477-5533.}**



## **Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

*A Reconciling In Christ Congregation*

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>

*‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.’ (Matthew 25:35).*

Since our founding over 100 years ago, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church has striven to extend its welcome to include all people, offering holy hospitality through ministries of caring, compassion, service and social justice. As a continuation and natural outgrowth of our welcome to all who seek God’s love and grace, we are committed to affirming and embracing people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, races and ethnicities, age, faith history, economic status, marital status, physical and mental ability, and education. We are committed to eliminating racism in all its forms and to racial equity. As Jesus welcomed us, so we, as members of Holy Trinity’s faith family, are ever mindful to joyfully and unconditionally welcome all.

# Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 6 Osborn Avenue, Manasquan, NJ 08736

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**Deacon: Ned Perwo**  
Music Ministry  
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Youth & Family Ministry  
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**Office Manager: Mary Burdwood**  
office@holytrinity-elca.org

**Church Telephone Number**  
(732) 223-0533

## **Church Office Hours**

M-Thurs., 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m. (closed 12-1 for lunch); closed Friday

Church Website: [www.holytrinity-elca.org](http://www.holytrinity-elca.org)

NJ Synod Website: [www.njsynod.org](http://www.njsynod.org)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Website: [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

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