

# JESUS *Jesus*

He shall be great, and shall  
be called the Son of the Highest...  
and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

L U K E 1 : 3 2 – 3 3



# HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 28, 2025

10:00 A.M.

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

*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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Penelope Stechmann

## PRELUDE

Deacon Ned Perwo

*Please be in prayerful silence as our worship begins with the prelude.*

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

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

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


*The congregation is invited to kneel as they are able. Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,  
you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.  
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.  
We nurture conflict and build barriers.  
We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.  
Have mercy on us.  
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
Renew us with your grace  
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. **Amen.**



Hear the good news:  
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
In ✙ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

# \*GATHERING HYMN



## 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.



## \*GREETING

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.**

## \* HYMN OF PRAISE

*Glory Be To God On High*



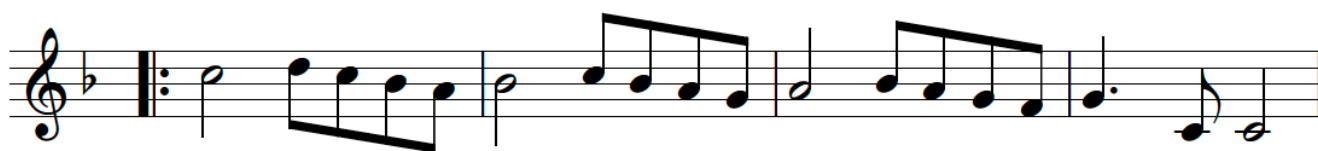
Glo - ry be to God on high,  
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare  
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,



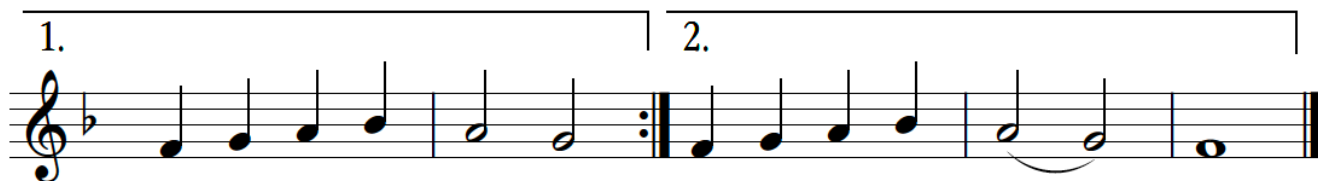
To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds  
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,  
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er



draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.  
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.  
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De o!

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O Lord God,  
you know that we  
cannot place our trust in  
our own powers.

As you protected the  
infant Jesus, so defend  
us and all the needy  
from harm and  
adversity, through  
Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and 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 READING: ISAIAH 63:7-9**

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

A reading from Isaiah, chapter 63.

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely";  
and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup>in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148 (Read Responsively)

*The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted,  
whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all  
faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near  
the Lord. Hallelujah!**



## SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

*Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.*

A reading from Hebrews, chapter 2.

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

<sup>13</sup>And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

# \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
(stanza 3)



- 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!



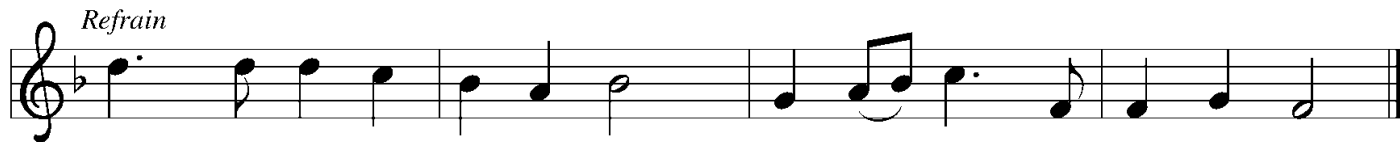
- peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
→ Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



- 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.



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

## **\*GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23**

*In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.*

The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 2.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarean.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**


**SERMON**

Pastor Stechmann


**TIME OF REFLECTION**

# \*HYMN OF THE DAY


## In the Bleak Midwinter




1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?


earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;




snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.



Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

## **\*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.*

God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness,  
but according to the abundance of your steadfast love.

Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise.

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

God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing  
of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing  
balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice,  
you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the  
faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings.  
Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect  
them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for  
the hospitalized...

those in rehab...

those recovering from surgery, hospitalization, illness or injury...

those anticipating surgery...

those undergoing treatments or testing...

those in hospice...

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

God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye.  
As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in  
danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to  
violence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones,  
especially...

Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us,  
trusting in your comfort and protection.

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

Deacon Ned



## \*OFFERTORY HYMN

## What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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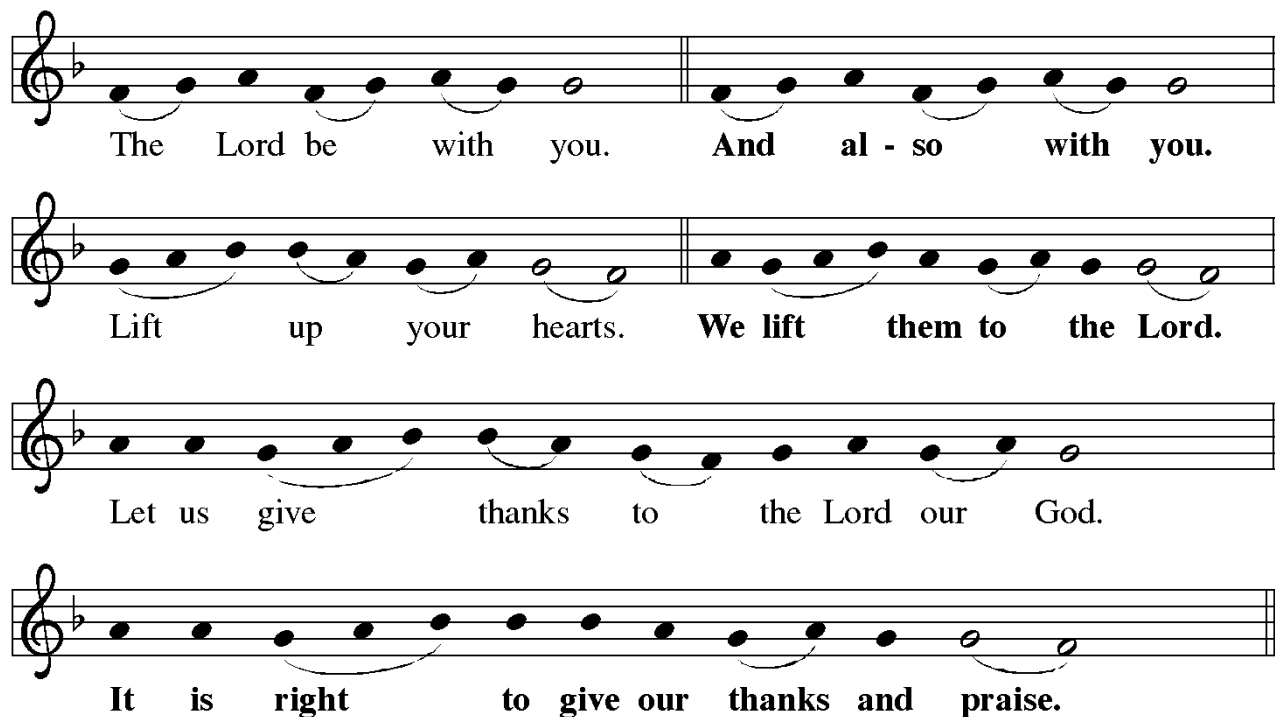
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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 Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has a double bar line after the first phrase. The second staff also has a double bar line after the first phrase. The third and fourth staves end with a final double bar line. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and '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 - - - - -  
in the bread and in the wine.

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

Glo - - - - -

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

## **\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King:

in the beginning you created the world through him who is the  
Word-made-flesh.

In remembering your promises to Israel,

that from the root of Jesse a new shepherd would come,  
at the appointed time the archangel Gabriel visited the blessed  
virgin Mary, and by the Spirit's power your Son was conceived.

Born in humble surroundings, our Lord Jesus became Emmanuel,

God with us, God in our place, and in him you have drawn close  
to us.

Thus we praise you for your goodness

and laud your magnificent love, a love which would lead this child  
to become the man-for-others, the one who takes away all fears,  
doubts, and helplessness: the one who, in love,  
bore the holy cross.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With the angels we rejoice and proclaim:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Glory to you, Lord God, heavenly King:

in this holy Child all lives are renewed, and all sins are forgiven by his life and holy Passion, his resurrection and exaltation at your right hand.

By that same Spirit which gave our Lord life as an infant,

empowered his ministry of words and miracles,

and raised him at his resurrection, now bless this Bread of Heaven and sanctify this Cup of Blessing, that as we partake of our Lord's Body and Blood we may be filled with your forgiving love, and the promise of new life through this holy Child.

**Glory to you, Lord God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Glory to you, and praise forevermore.**

## **\*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.







## **MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

*Carols of the Season*

-Traditional-

## **\*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 Stechmann

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

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

**Amen.**



# \*SENDING HYMN

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



*Refrain*



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## **\*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

*The congregation is invited to remain seated for the postlude  
or depart quietly for fellowship outside of the sanctuary.*

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## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**



### **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 heartbreaking 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.

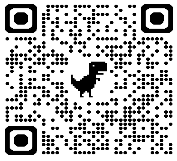
### **HEALING SERVICE:**

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 [Ralphejensen@aol.com](mailto:Ralphejensen@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

**Pastor: The Rev. Mary V. Farnham**

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**Deacon: Ned Perwo**

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**Office Manager: Mary Burdwood**

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**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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