

# FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MINNEAPOLIS

## WELCOME TO ALL

### ***Holy Trinity gathers on the Sacred land of the Dakota People.***

The people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church wish to extend a **special welcome** to all visitors!

Please leave your name and phone number on the visitor card found in the pew.

We are committed to the inclusion of all people, with no exception. Therefore, we practice **open communion**, welcoming all to the table to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Children are full participants** in this congregation's worship, educational, and community life! The Mary Martha Room is a quiet space for infants needing to nurse or to nap. For active toddlers, the Community Room has a Children's Corner with books and a table at which to play. Our ushers are ready to assist you in finding the place that best fits your family's needs.

**Accessible and all-gender restrooms** are located in the basement.

**Single-use, all-gender restrooms** are located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

For over forty years, this congregation has advocated for the **full welcome, inclusion, and equity** of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the church and the community. We invite all people into lives of authenticity, integrity, and wholeness.

**Hearing assist devices and large-print bulletins** are available. Ask an usher if you are interested.

Our **services are livestreamed** on Vimeo and Facebook every week. The live shot includes the main floor of the sanctuary. Our members who watch from home love to see their friends at church! If for privacy reasons you prefer not to be on camera, the balcony is outside of the camera's range.

If you are seeking **pastoral care**, please speak to a pastor today.

+invites the congregation to stand

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## A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF POETRY AND HYMNODY

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**PRELUDE**

*Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her*

settings from  
various composers

**+PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*Please stand and face the cross at the rear of the sanctuary.*

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 four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, with the first three stanzas corresponding to the four voice parts. The fourth stanza is a refrain that is repeated. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal parts.

**+GREETING**

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**WELCOME**

## READINGS AND HYMNS

*A reading from the gospel of John, chapter one:* <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

## POEM

### *In the Beginning*

Dylan Thomas

In the beginning was the three-pointed star,  
One smile of light across the empty face,  
One bough of bone across the rooting air,  
The substance forked that marrowed the first sun,  
And, burning ciphers on the round of space,  
Heaven and hell mixed as they spun.

In the beginning was the pale signature,  
Three-syllabled and starry as the smile,  
And after came the imprints on the water,  
Stamp of the minted face upon the moon;  
The blood that touched the crosstree and the grail  
Touched the first cloud and left a sign.

In the beginning was the mounting fire  
That set alight the weathers from a spark,  
A three-eyed, red-eyed spark, blunt as a flower,  
Life rose and spouted from the rolling seas,  
Burst in the roots, pumped from the earth and rock  
The secret oils that drive the grass.

In the beginning was the word, the word  
That from the solid bases of the light  
Abstracted all the letters of the void;  
And from the cloudy bases of the breath  
The word flowed up, translating to the heart  
First characters of birth and death.

In the beginning was the secret brain.  
The brain was celled and soldered in the thought  
Before the pitch was forking to a sun;  
Before the veins were shaking in their sieve,  
Blood shot and scattered to the winds of light  
The ribbed original of love.

## HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

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



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



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



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

*A reading from the gospel of John:* <sup>3</sup>What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

POEM

*Christmas Carol*

Paul Laurence Dunbar

Ring out, ye bells!  
All Nature swells  
With gladness at the wondrous story,—  
The world was lorn,  
But Christ is born  
To change our sadness into glory.  
Sing, earthlings, sing!  
To-night a King  
Hath come from heaven's high throne to bless us.  
The outstretched hand  
O'er all the land  
Is raised in pity to caress us.  
Come at his call;  
Be joyful all;  
Away with mourning and with sadness!  
The heavenly choir  
With holy fire  
Their voices raise in songs of gladness.  
The darkness breaks  
And Dawn awakes,  
Her cheeks suffused with youthful blushes.  
The rocks and stones  
In holy tones  
Are singing sweeter than the thrushes.  
Then why should we  
In silence be,  
When Nature lends her voice to praises;  
When heaven and earth  
Proclaim the truth  
Of Him for whom that lone star blazes?  
No, be not still,  
But with a will  
Strike all your harps and set them ringing;  
On hill and heath  
Let every breath  
Throw all its power into singing!

## HYMN

*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."

*A reading from the gospel of John:* <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

POEM

*St. John's Eve*

Malcolm Guite

Midsummer night, and bonfires on the hill  
Burn for the man who makes way for the Light:  
    'He must increase and I diminish still,  
    Until his sun illuminates my night.'  
So John the Baptist pioneers our path,  
Unfolds the essence of the life of prayer,  
Unlatches the last doorway into faith,  
And makes one inner space an everywhere.  
Least of the new and greatest of the old,  
Orpheus on the threshold with his lyre,  
He sets himself aside, and cries "Behold  
The One who stands amongst you comes with fire!"  
So keep his fires burning through this night,  
Beacons and gateways for the child of light.



## HYMN

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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

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

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

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

*A reading from the gospel of John:* <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

POEM

*All of the Branches*

Thomas Merton

All of the branches  
none of the roots.  
All of the words  
freedom branches.  
All of the words  
happiness branches.  
All of the words  
equality branches.  
None of the roots.  
All of the branches  
None of the roots.

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 - 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!

*A reading from the gospel of John:* <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

POEM

*On How to Be a Manger*

Barbara S. Germiot

Be empty  
Be sturdy  
Be soft inside  
Be still  
Be ready

HYMN

*Away in a Manger*



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



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

*A reading from the gospel of John: <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

POEM

*Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem*

Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes  
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.  
Flood waters await us in our avenues.  
Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche  
Over unprotected villages.  
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.  
We question ourselves.  
What have we done to so affront nature?  
We worry God.  
Are you there? Are you there really?  
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?  
Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,  
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope  
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.  
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,  
Come the way of friendship.  
It is the Glad Season.  
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.  
Flood waters recede into memory.  
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us  
As we make our way to higher ground.  
Hope is born again in the faces of children  
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.  
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,  
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.  
In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.  
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.  
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.  
We hear a sweetness.  
The word is Peace.  
It is loud now. It is louder.  
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.  
It is what we have hungered for.  
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.  
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.  
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.  
We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.  
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.  
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.  
Peace.  
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.  
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,  
Implore you, to stay a while with us.  
So we may learn by your shimmering light  
How to look beyond complexion and see community.  
It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.  
On this platform of peace, we can create a language  
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.  
At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ  
Into the great religions of the world.  
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.  
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.  
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices  
To celebrate the promise of Peace.  
We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers,  
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.  
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.  
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves  
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.  
Peace, My Brother.  
Peace, My Sister.  
Peace, My Soul.

## HYMN

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be -  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

## SABBATICAL BLESSING FOR PASTOR DAVID

(written by Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson)

It is only human to become what you do,  
to believe you are necessary for good order and momentum.

So in the beginning God set humankind apart on a planet  
that moves without your control,  
that revolves despite your wild desire to be at the very center of things.

God promised provision on the seventh day, so that you could practice resistance  
to your zealous rhythms with rest, so that you could stop for a season and trust:

I am so small. And also, I matter so much.

It is here in the absence of doing you will remember  
the terrible and wonderful news—that God is still here, making things new,  
even and often without your help.

Pastor David, may this Sabbath time return your identity from production to relationship in  
which you hear the call to some things, not all the things, and relish your place as a creature  
of God.

*The congregation may applaud.*

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*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 Wilson Murray; Dorothy Kelly; Kathy Ekwall's friend, Mark Caffrey; Nikki Randolph-Martinez; Carol Kelly; Mary Petersen; Mary Petersen's friends, Jean Ebrahimi and Lenny Garber; Mary Heltsley; Tre Tellor's mom Jill; Tina and Neela; Rick Lathrop; Karen Batdorf's sister Marie; Mike Kelly; Josie Tober; Stella Townsend; Rosemary Foley, upon the death of her sister; Angel Blanco, in ICE detention, and those we hold in our hearts or speak with our voices now (*the congregation may name loved ones in need of God's care*). 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.**

*You are invited to offer spoken petitions.*

*At the conclusion of your petition, please close with "Hear us, O God,"  
to which the congregation will reply "Your mercy is great."*

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



**+PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*You are invited to exchange words and signs of friendship and love with those around you.*

**OFFERING**

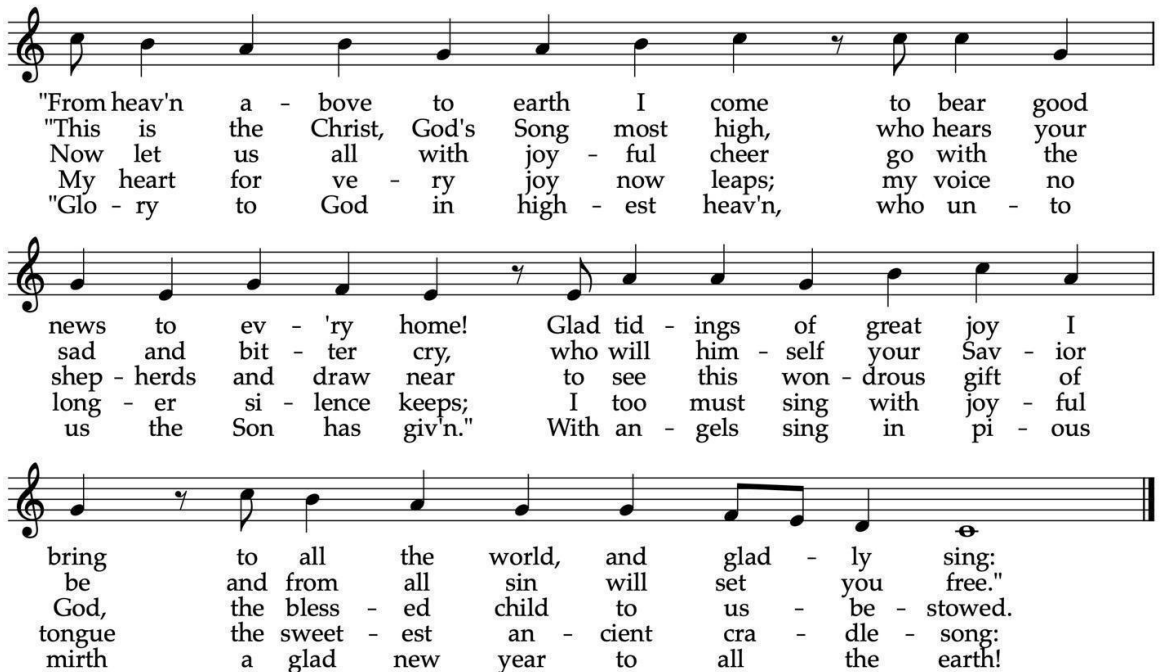
*Cold December Flies Away*

Dale Wood

*Baskets will be passed in the sanctuary. If you prefer to donate to the mission and ministry using Venmo or card, the QR codes can be found on the back page of the bulletin.*

**+OFFERING HYMN**

*From Heaven Above*



The musical score for the hymn "From Heaven Above" is written on three staves. The lyrics are as follows:

"From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
"This is the Christ, God's Song most high, who hears your  
Now let us all with joy - ful cheer go with the  
My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no  
"Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to

news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I  
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior  
shep - herds and draw near to see this won - drous gift of  
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful  
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous

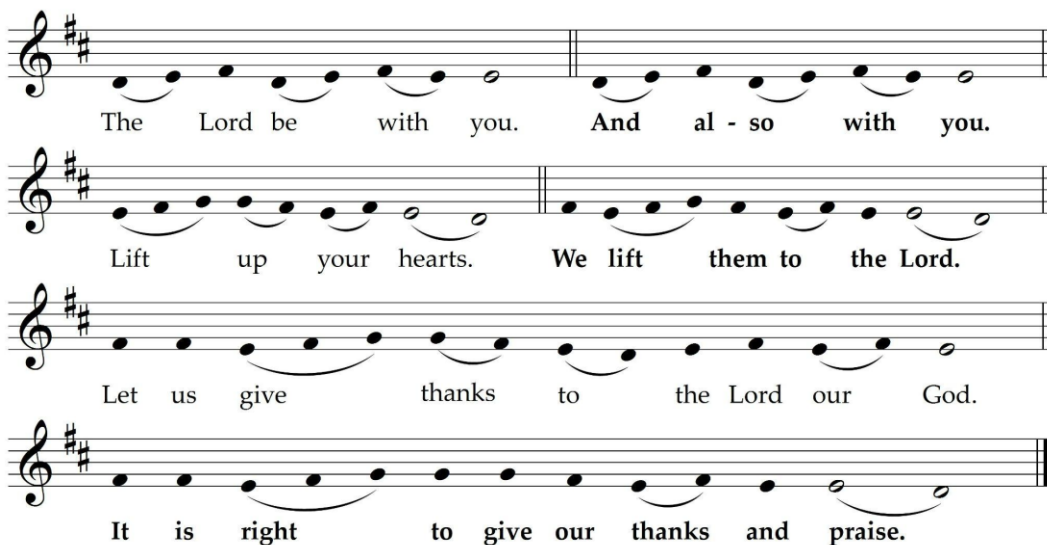
bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
be and from the all sin, will set - ly you free."  
God, the bless - ed child to us - be - stowed.  
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song;  
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

## +OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you choose to be born among us every day. We praise you! Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

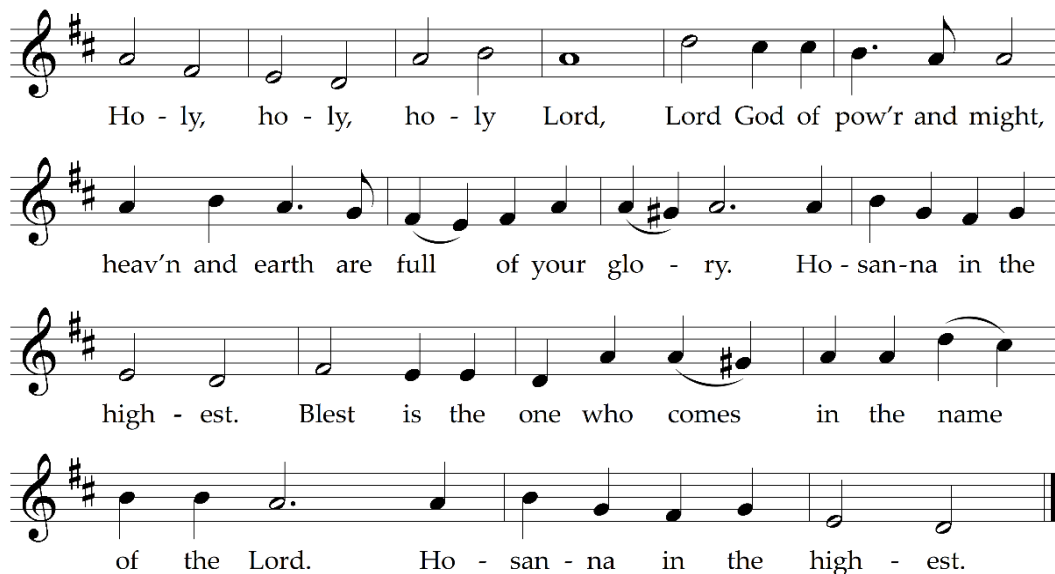
**Amen.**

## +GREAT THANKSGIVING



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**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the  
high - est. Blest is the one who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**+WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**+LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray together,

**Our Creator, Our Mother, Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## +LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION INVITATION

All are welcome at the table. For those worshipping at home, hear these words spoken for you: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request to the server.*

*An usher will direct you down the center aisle, where you can pick up a communion cup. You are invited to stand or kneel in front of the table, beginning from the middle and moving toward the outside. After you have received the bread and the wine, please return to your seat by way of the side aisle, where an usher will receive your communion cup.*

*If you wish to receive communion from a pastor in your pew, please let an usher know.*

DISTRIBUTION 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.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Let Our Gladness Have No End*



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

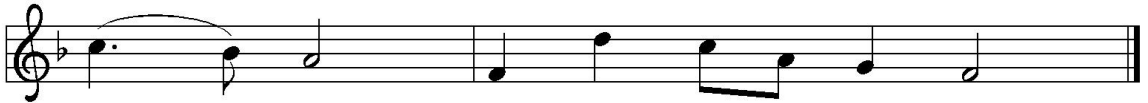


for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
God has sent the one fore - told. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
from the branch of Jes - se grows. Hal - le - lu - jah!  
our true ref - uge and our Lord. Hal - le - lu - jah!

### *Refrain*



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



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

## +BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

## +POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

+RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

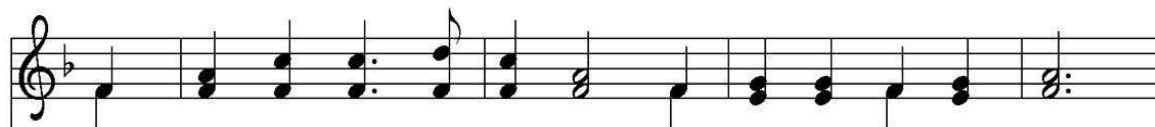
*Refrain*



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.



When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and the princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
 The work of Christmas begins:  
 To find the lost,  
 To heal the broken,  
 To feed the hungry,  
 To release the prisoner,  
 To rebuild the nations,  
 To bring peace among people,  
 To make music in the heart.

**+DISMISSAL**

Go in peace! Love your neighbors!  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE***Noel Toccata*

Gordon Young

*You are invited to the Community Room  
 (located at the rear of the worship area) for a time of conversation and refreshments.*

*"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; 'Salisbury Hymn Book', 1854, st. 4*

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

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune*

*"On Christmas Night" Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional*

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Text: German carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4*

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

*"What Child Is This" Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> cent.*

*"Away in a Manger" Text: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent. Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921*

*"Of the Father's Love Begotten" Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite  
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13<sup>th</sup> cent.*

*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876. Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900*

*"Let Our Gladness Have No End" Text: Bohemian carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. unknown  
 Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent*

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*"Go Tell It on the Mountain" Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.  
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual*

*"From Heaven Above" Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. 'Lutheran Book of Worship'  
 Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, 'Geistliche Lieder', 1539*



# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2730 East 31st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406

612-729-8358 ☒ htlcmpls.org

**LITURGY:** POETRY AND HYMNODY COMPILED BY REV. PAUL HOFFMAN

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	David Larson-Martínez (he/him)
<b>Crucifer</b>	Tre Tellor (he/they)
<b>Bulletin Cover Art</b>	Marcia Floding (she/her)
<b>Cantor</b>	Jody Liedholm (she/her)
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Rick Liedholm (he/him)
<b>Communion</b>	Dennis O'Brien (he/him), John Buzza (he/him), Zoe Martinez (she/her)
<b>Ushers</b>	Alan Libra (he/him), Chris Amundson (he/him), David Rediger (he/him), Bob Peschiutta (he/him)
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Roberta Shaw (she/her), Vicki Bergman (she, her)
<b>Coffee Servers</b>	Joy Nelson (she/her), Arlene Helvig (she/her)
<b>Counters</b>	Julie Cahoy (she/her)
<b>Closer</b>	Bob Hulteen (he/him)
<b>Video Operator</b>	Bob Hulteen (he/him)

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### STAFF

Ingrid Rasmussen (she/her), *Lead Pastor*  
David Larson-Martínez (he/him), *Associate Pastor*  
Doug Mork (he/him), *Part-time Associate Pastor*  
Kathy Ekwall (she/her), *Communications &  
Congregational Coordinator*  
Nolan Gusdal (he/him), *Building Maintenance*  
Phil Radtke (he/him), *Cantor*  
Kaia Ellis (she/her), *Financial Administrator*

### STAFF, CONTINUED

Sue Roberts (she/her), *Publications Coordinator*  
Edgar Alvarez (he/him), *Custodian*  
Dana Simms (he/him), *Custodian*  
Logan Olson (he/him), *Handbell Director*

### LEADERSHIP

Anne Beschnett (she/her), *Council President*  
Sandra Hisakuni (she/her), *Council Vice President*  
James Nysse (he/him), *Council Secretary*  
George Henry (he/him), *Council Treasurer*

## **P A R I S H   I N F O R M A T I O N**

### **PASTOR DAVID ON SABBATICAL DECEMBER 31, 2025–MARCH 25, 2026**

Sabbaticals are a benefit extended to all regular staff at Holy Trinity, and I am grateful for and looking forward to mine! For me this will be a time of leaning into rootedness, connecting with heart languages, and traveling to places where friends and family live. I am sure that this time away will allow me to return re-energized for all the faithful work we do in our community.

During my time away, the committees I relate to will be able to call on one of the pastors for their needs. Children and Family, Youth, AMMPARO/Immigration, and Music in the Garden Committees will relate to Pastor Doug. Nurturing Relationships, Caring for Creation, and Palestine/Israel Committees will relate to Pastor Ingrid.

Thank you for making sabbaticals a priority at Holy Trinity!

### **MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS**

We invite you to make your final contributions for the current fiscal year at this time. Please note: the office will be closed on December 31. If you are dropping off a donation for 2025, it needs to be received on or before Tuesday, December 30. Thank you for all you share with Holy Trinity!

### **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 2**

We have very few days when our building partners are on break. We are closing to attend to the floors that receive over 150 people each day and the more than 40 other spaces in the building that host our building partners, community groups, and organizations. See you on Monday, January 5!

### **WEDNESDAY MEAL, CHILDREN'S CHOIR, JUBILATION, GLORIA RINGERS, CANTATE, OPEN GYM RESUME WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7**

Children's Choir (5:45-6:45 p.m.) is open to kids entering kindergarten through 5th grade, rehearses most weeks during the school year, and sings in worship every 4-5 weeks. Jubilation (5:45-6:30 p.m.) is open to kids entering 6th through 12th grade who want to learn and play handbells. Jubilation rehearses most weeks during the school year and plays in worship 4-5 times per year. Gloria Ringers (6:00-7:30 p.m.) is the adult handbell ensemble, rehearses weekly during the school year, and plays in worship every 6-7 weeks. Cantate (6:45-7:30 p.m.) is a choir open to youth entering 6th through 12th grade and sings in worship every 6-7 weeks. Sign up in the Community Room or send an email to Phil for vocal choirs or Logan for handbell ensembles. For more information on choral and instrumental ensemble and solo opportunities, talk to Cantor Phil.

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7—YOUNG ADULT MONTHLY SOCIAL**

Young adults are invited to join the community meal on the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the church building. Following the meal, the group will walk to Arbeiter Brewing for fellowship and fun! For further information, please reach out to Dave Herrera at [dave.herrera24@gmail.com](mailto:dave.herrera24@gmail.com) for more information.

### **SUGARCANE SHOWING SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 11:30 A.M.**

Please join us in the Bartsch Room on Sunday, January 18, at 11:30 a.m. for a showing of the award-winning debut feature documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie. Sugarcane is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school. More information to follow. Sign up in the Community Room.

### **ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 11:00 A.M.**

Following the 10:00 a.m. service, all are invited to the gym for a free meal and the annual congregational meeting, as we celebrate the 122<sup>nd</sup> year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, and approve the 2026 budget. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on our progress made toward congregational goals.

### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**

We are holding the annual pancake breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. this day. Confirmation students and their families will host the event. This will be a fundraiser for youth service/learning/fun trips. Tickets are \$10 and will be on sale at the Annual Meeting, as well as at the door on the day of the event. Please consider volunteering!

### **FAMILY RETREAT AT HUDSON YMCA IN HUDSON, WISCONSIN, FRIDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13-15**

Join us for a weekend of rest, renewal, and family-friendly fun with church members of all ages! Sign up in the Community Room by January 28. The cost is \$50 per person, but there are scholarships available! Simply chat with Pr. Doug. You will be expected to drive yourselves, but carpooling can be arranged!

## P A R I S H   S C H E D U L E

Tuesday, December 30	8:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Final day to drop off year-end gifts
Wednesday, December 31		Church Building Closed
Thursday, January 1		Church Building Closed
Friday, January 2		Church Building Closed
Sunday, January 4	8:30 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM	Family Coffee Hour Adult Forum Youth Education Worship Service of Holy Communion Swahili Service

### ADULT FORUM

*9:00 a.m. in the Library*

**TODAY                NO ADULT FORUM**

**January 4            “Lake Street”  
                             Pastor Doug**

Pastor Doug will facilitate a conversation about Lake Street recovery. Please come with your own thoughts and reflections about where we are and where we need go.

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## D O N A T E

We are grateful for your donations that allow us to build community  
in this corner of Minneapolis and beyond!



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