



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Epiphany, *observed*

January 4, 2026



*The Ancient of Days (1794)*  
*William Blake (1757–1827)*

*John's prologue proclaims Christ as the preexistent Word through whom all things were made and in whom the light still shines. Blake's 'Ancient of Days,' with its radiant figure bending over the void and measuring creation with a compass, visualizes that cosmic Logos while hinting at how divine order and human imagination together shape a redeemed world.*

# WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.  
Becklin*  
SENIOR PASTOR

*Deaconess Deborah  
Matern Graf*  
DEACON FOR  
FORMATION  
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron  
Lee Wentz*  
CANTOR

*Matthew Mellen*  
DIRECTOR OF  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
COMMUNICATION

*Rachel Gambone*  
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
COORDINATOR

*Peter Graf*  
FINANCIAL  
ADMINISTRATOR

*Pam Wasmuth*  
BOOKKEEPER

*John McKeon*  
PROPERTY MANAGER

*Dave Troche*  
SEXTON



*The Rev. Fred S.  
Opalinski*  
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.  
Eddinger*  
MINISTER OF MUSIC  
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.

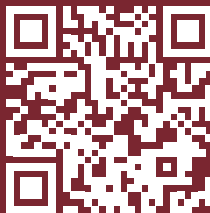


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.



WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

# The HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

**Congregational words are in bold print.**

## PRELUDE

The Holy Boy: A Carol of the Nativity

John Ireland  
(1879-1962)

## GATHERING HYMN

The First Noel

ELW 300

## DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

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

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed  
your Son to the nations by the  
leading of a star. Lead us now by  
faith to know your presence in our  
lives, and bring us at last to the full  
vision of your glory,

through your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Epiphany

*Please stand in body  
or spirit and face the  
processional cross.  
This hymn can be  
found on pages 4 & 5.*

*This prayer relates  
to the readings  
appointed for the day  
and asks for God's  
help in applying them  
to our lives.*

*Young people come  
forward as the  
congregation sings  
a refrain, found on  
page 18. During this  
time, we learn about  
the liturgy together.*

*Follow the  
processional cross,  
turning as it passes  
you.*


# GATHERING HYMN

## The First Noel


ELW 300



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



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

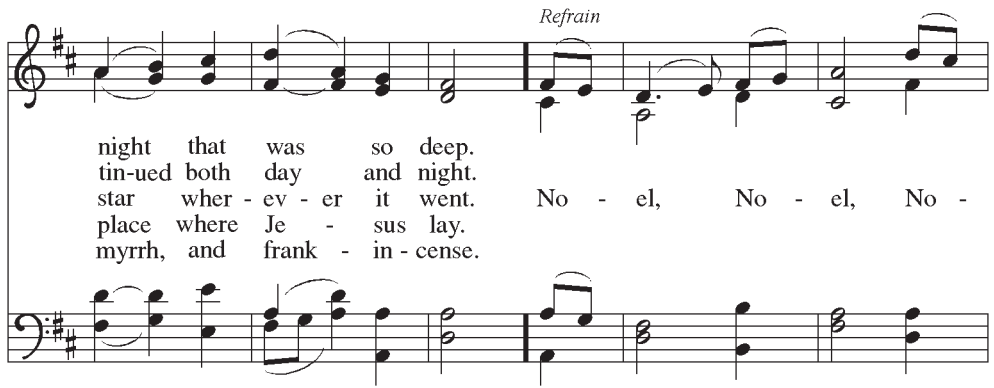


they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and


Text: English  
traditional

Music: THE FIRST  
NOEL,  
English traditional;  
arr. John Stainer,  
1840-1901

*Refrain*



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



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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light,

which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

### He Came Down

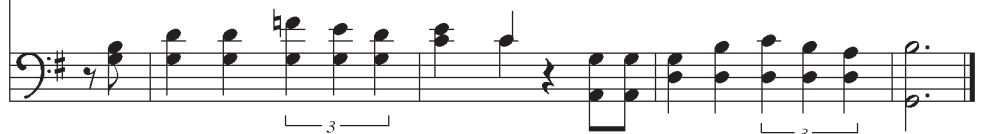
ELW 253



1	He came down that we may have love;	he came down that we may have love;
2	He came down that we may have light;	he came down that we may have light;
3	He came down that we may have peace;	he came down that we may have peace;
4	He came down that we may have joy;	he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;	
he came down that we may have light;	hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;	
he came down that we may have joy;	



Text: Cameroon  
traditional

Music: HE CAME  
DOWN,  
Cameroon traditional;  
arr. John L. Bell,  
b. 1949

Arr. © 1986  
Iona Community,  
GIA Publications, Inc.

No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us.

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

What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,' "  
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"



# CAROL

## Jesus, the Light of the World

ACS 914

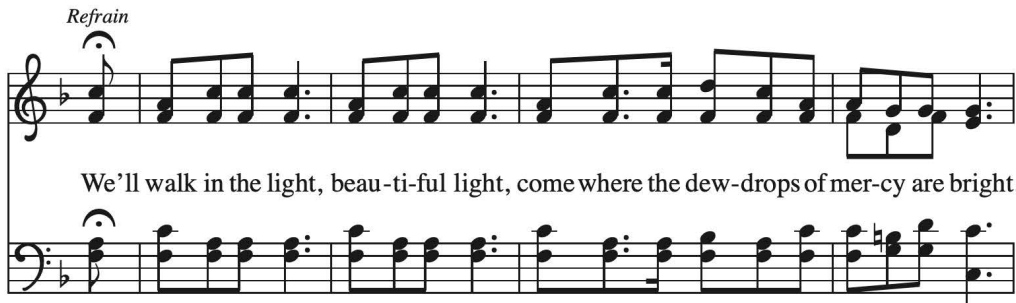


1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;  
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;

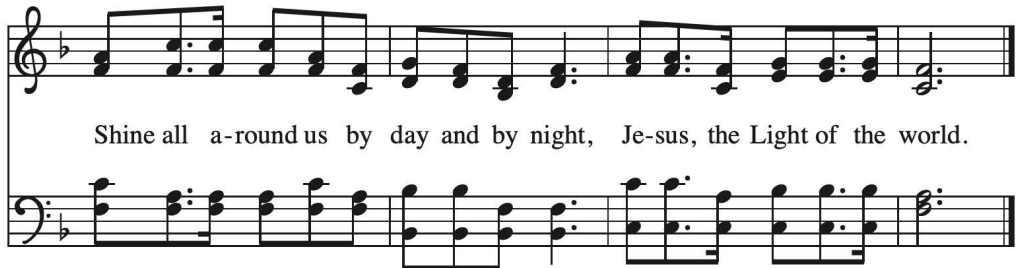


“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.  
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley,  
 1707–1788,  
 stanzas;  
 George D. Elderkin,  
 1845–1928,  
 refrain

Music: WE'LL WALK  
 IN THE LIGHT,  
 Traditional; arr.  
 George D. Elderkin



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers  
of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently

for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

# CAROL

## We Three Kings

WOV 646



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



### Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



Text: John Henry  
Hopkins, Jr.,  
1820-1891, alt.

Music: THREE  
KINGS OF ORIENT,  
John Henry  
Hopkins, Jr.



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



Now after they 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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 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.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, 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 magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“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.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “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.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling 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. 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 Nazarene.”

## CAROL

### Goodness is Stronger than Evil

ELW 721



Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;



light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*,  
Desmond Tutu,  
1931-2021

Music: GOODNESS  
IS STRONGER,  
John L. Bell,  
b. 1949

Text: © 1995 by  
Desmond Tutu

Music © 1996  
Iona Community,  
GIA Publications, Inc.

## LESSON

Luke 2:41-51

*Virginia Biniek*

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and

asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

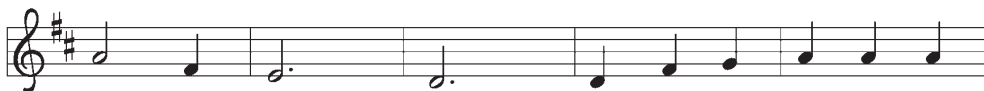
# CAROL

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

### Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen  
Thomerson,  
b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON,  
Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970,  
1975 Celebration

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

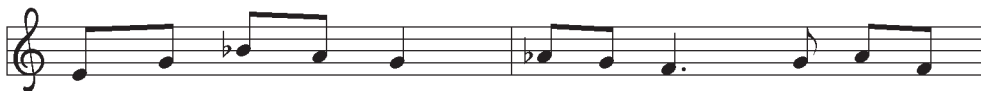
# CAROL

Come, Beloved of the Maker

ELW 306



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -  
2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on to those  
3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low  
4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -  
5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose



hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's  
bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in  
to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of  
splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and  
glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and



splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.  
wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."  
an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.  
height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.  
splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Text: Susan Palo  
Cherwien,  
1953-2021

Music: JILL,  
David Cherwien, b.  
1957

Text © 2001 Susan Palo  
Cherwien,  
admin. Augsburg  
Fortress

Music © 2006 Augsburg  
Fortress

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to

them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Word of God, word of life.

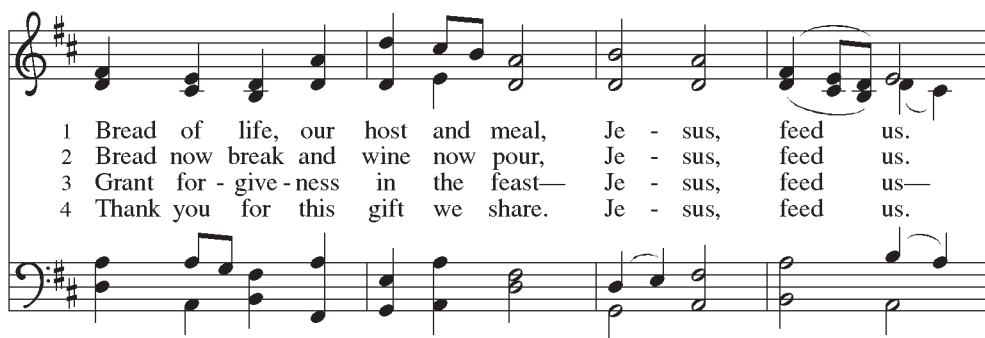
Thanks be to God.

*Please stand  
in body or spirit.*

# CAROL

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.  
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.  
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—  
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.

Text: Ray Makeever,  
b. 1943;  
Rusty Edwards,  
b. 1955

Music: JESUS,  
FEED US,  
Ray Makeever;  
arr. Rusty Edwards



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.  
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.  
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.  
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text and music © 1996  
Hope Publishing  
Company



*Together, we confess  
the faith of the  
Church.*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*After a brief silence  
each petition  
concludes:*

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

*After the final  
petition:*

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.**

*Please greet one  
another and then  
be seated.*

*The offering, bread,  
and wine are  
brought forward  
and the altar is set.*

*Please stand  
in body or spirit.*

## PEACE

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERTORY

Fantasia on “Greensleeves”

Richard Purvis  
(1913-1994)

### OFFERING 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.**

## IN OUR PRAYERS

### IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Peggy Wentz
- ♦ Dee Horst
- ♦ Jerry Holleran

### TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

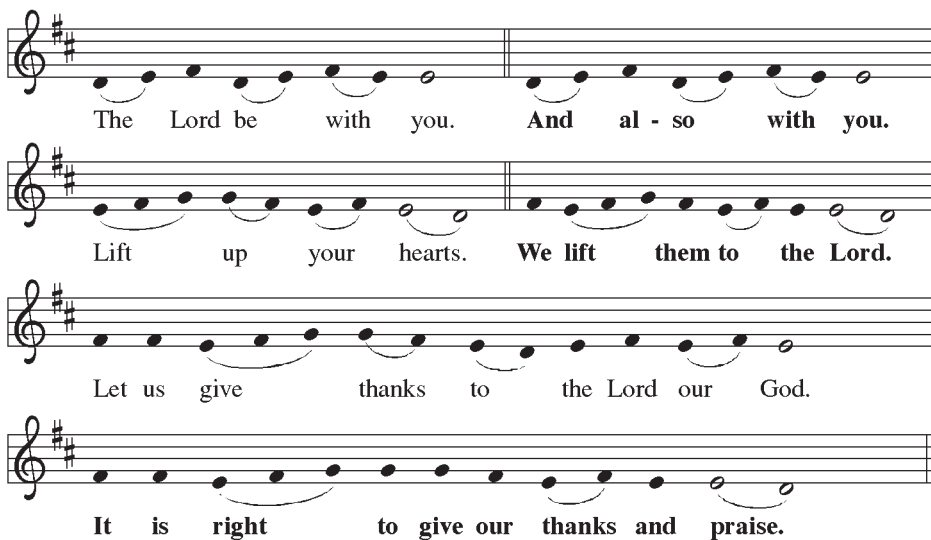
- ♦ John Darlington,  
Jr.
- ♦ William & Leslie  
Davidson
- ♦ Jeanette & Angela  
DeAngelo
- ♦ Miles & Elizabeth  
Dechant
- ♦ Virginia Deem

### ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Danielle Andress
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Christina  
McMahon
- ♦ Yadar

*The presider greets  
the assembly and  
invites all to give  
thanks.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

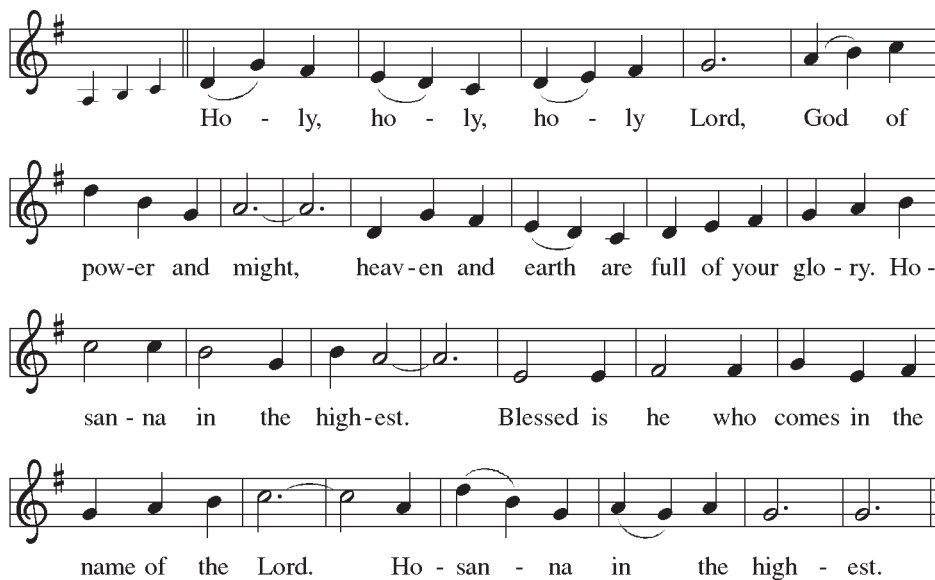
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*During the Words of  
Institution, the bread  
and wine are elevated  
for the congregation  
to revere and adore  
Christ's presence in  
our midst.*

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember . . .

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit . . .

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours . . .

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*Silence is kept as the  
bread is broken.*

*Please be seated.*

*Detailed instructions  
for communion can  
be found on page 19.*

## 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.

*This hymn can be  
found in the red  
hymnal (ELW).*

*Please stand  
in body or spirit.*

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

In the Bleak Midwinter


ELW 294

## TABLE BLESSING

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

*We join in the  
Song of Simeon in  
gratitude for meeting  
the Lord in the Holy  
Eucharist.*

## NUNC DIMITTIS



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

## 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.**

*As a sign of God's  
blessing, you may  
make the sign  
of the cross.*

## BLESSING

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
† bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

*Face the processional  
cross, turning as it  
passes you.*

## SENDING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,  
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;  
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;  
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.  
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.  
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.  
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.  
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



Text: William C. Dix,  
1837-1898, alt.

Music: DIX  
Music: Conrad  
Kocher,  
1786-1872

## 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

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young  
(1919-1998)



## COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER  
ASSISTING MINISTER  
CANTOR  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT  
ACOLYTE  
GREETER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin  
Lisa Speece  
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz  
Donna Osborne  
Avery Mazur  
Russ Diesinger

USHERS  
MEDIA TEAM

ALTAR GUILD

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Erica Hofmann, Stephen Welz  
Grace Norton-Ritz, Abbie Smith,  
Jennifer Smith  
Jacinda, Josh, & Linda Motley,  
Berni Ilgin, Charlie Norton,  
Robin Oberholtzer, Beth Welz  
Program Staff

## WORSHIP SPONSORS

*These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.*

DAR UNGER  
in loving memory of her husband, Richard

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

EVANGELISM & MEDIA COMMITTEE -  
Bard House

11:30 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House  
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Welcome Center

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

## MONDAY, JANUARY 5

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

12:00PM

PEG COLEMAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

9:00 AM

MEDIA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
BREAKFAST - All Saints Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room  
MEDIA VOLUNTEER PHOTO - Nave

11:30 PM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

3:00 PM

CHOIR EPIPHANY PARTY - offsite

## STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.



## SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

Liturgical components are from Sundays and Seasons © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #22196. Hymns reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. In-person: 89

10:30 p.m. In-person: 132

Online: 136

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

In-person: 127

Online: 150