



“People coming together to be The Church,  
not just attend one.”

Trinity Lutheran Church is an open and inclusive  
church, welcoming all who seek God.

69 Griswold Street • Hillsdale, Michigan  
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**Second Sunday of Christmas**

**January 3, 2021**

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**Service of the Word**  
**Readings, Hymns and Prayers for Worship at Home**

**Trinity Lutheran Church** is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING!** We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of longstanding, we celebrate your gifts and your ministry among us. Our order of worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin.

**MISSION STATEMENT** - The Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is to nurture faith through proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ by word, sacrament, deeds and loving relationships, to ALL people.

**VISION STATEMENT** - As proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to maximize our gifts and resources to reach out with God's love and serve the global community.

**NURSERY** - This congregation encourages ALL children to participate in worship. They learn more about worship and faith by being part of it than anything else. If you or your children need a break, a nursery is located in the lower level of the church building, and is accessible from either stairway. During worship, the nursery is self-service.

**FROM THE ELCA WORSHIP BLOG:**

In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While you cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

**DEVOTIONAL MUSIC LINKS:**

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress: "[A Babe Is Born](#);" "[O God of Light](#);" "[Now the Heavens Start to Whisper](#)."

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C** **Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C** **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN****ELW #289 v. 1 & 3***Angels We Have Heard on High*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

Music: GLORIA, French carol

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray.  
Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**
- A A reading from Jeremiah.

## FIRST READING

*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD:

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

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

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

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

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

## PSALM

*Psalm 147:12-20*

*Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

<sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**  
<sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**  
<sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

A A reading from Ephesians.

**SECOND READING**

***Ephesians 1:3-14***

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia.

C **Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL

*John 1:1-18*

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

<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. 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.

<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. <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. <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.

<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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #291 v. 1 & 4

*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.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown

Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

## 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

A As we near the conclusion of the Christmas season, let us pray for God's mercy throughout this new year.

*A brief silence.*

A All through 2021, O redeeming God, bless your church. Renew the strength of bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and all servants of the church. Assist congregations in paying their bills. Give us hope in your goodness and joy in your salvation. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

**C Save your people, O LORD.**

A All through 2021, O bountiful God, bless your earth. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in the balance you intend, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Reveal new ways for us to live in harmony with your creation. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

**C Save your people, O LORD.**

A All through 2021, O ruling God, bless the nations of the world. Bring peace and justice where there is violence and abuse of power. Inspire those in authority to serve the common good, and preserve stability in the United States. Protect those who risk danger for the sake of others. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

**C Save your people, O LORD.**

A All through 2021, O reconciling God, lead us out of patterns of prejudice and into reconciliation with one another. Help us to honor all persons as members of your family and our siblings under your care. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

C **Save your people, O LORD.**

A All through 2021, O loving God, give us wisdom in our resolutions and strength during hardships. Console those who are afraid or lonely. Give jobs to the unemployed. Direct us toward the solution to the world's problems, to feed the hungry, to house the homeless, to serve the neighbor. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

C **Save your people, O LORD.**

A All through 2021, O compassionate God, attend to those who suffer. End the pandemic. Restore health care workers. Heal the sick. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Visit those for whom we pray, (*especially those in need of strength and healing...*). Receive our prayer, merciful God.

C **Save your people, O LORD.**

A All through 2021, O precious God, pour over us and into us your Holy Spirit, that we may live as your own, and accept the silent petitions we offer. (*Pause*) Receive our prayer, merciful God.

C **Save your people, O LORD.**

A At this beginning of 2021, O eternal God, hear our praise for all those whose lives proclaimed your praise, especially those who died during 2020. At our end, bring us with them into the garden watered by your mercy. Receive our prayer, merciful God.

C **Save your people, O LORD.**

P O God, you are the Beginning and the Ending of all. Receive our prayers for the sake of one who made known to us the mystery of your will, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### ***FIRST SUNDAY: Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger***

*Each week, our congregation collects a general offering for the church and our ministries. Additionally, we collect an offering for special projects.*

*Offerings can be mailed to the church while in-person services are suspended. You may include a note for what you would like your offering to support, or simply write it on the memo line of your check. All checks need to be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church, as required by our bank.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C Amen.

### LORD'S PRAYER (8:30 a.m.)

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

C **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.**

### LORD'S PRAYER (11:00 a.m.)

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

C **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.**

## BLESSING

P Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.

C Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

## ELW #298 v. 1 &amp; 6

*The Bells of Christmas*

*Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer*  
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly  
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly  
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled  
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



*for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve*  
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a  
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who  
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



*hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.*  
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.  
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.  
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

- 5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,  
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,  
 and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
 then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,  
 shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt.  
 Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855

## DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Share the good news.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**

### SERVING AT TRINITY

**Ministers:** Every member of the congregation    **Council President:**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Jessica Hahn    **Vice-President:** Suzanne Langston  
**Piano/Keyboard:** Paul Lucas    **Treasurer:** Kristin Lucas  
**Parish Secretary:** Ann Warner, Volunteers    **Secretary:**

**Council Members:** Sandra Dufur, Johncie Langston, Norma Ludlow, Chris McNamara, Brad Otterbein, Joe Painter, Gene Stockford-Shively, and Tom Walworth.

### SERVING TODAY:

**Assisting Minister:** Patti Weber  
**Cantor:** Chris McNamara  
**Altar Guild:** Tom Stockford-Shively

**FLOWERS** -- The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God.

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