

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, 12/28 10:00AM WORSHIP

MONDAY, 12/29

TUESDAY, 12/30

6:00PM SCRAPBOOKING

WEDNESDAY, 12/31

THURSDAY, 1/1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FRIDAY, 1/2 OFFICES CLOSED

SATURDAY, 1/3

SUNDAY, 1/4 8:15AM WORSHIP
9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45AM WORSHIP
6:00PM DINNER CHURCH

Holy Trinity now accepts donations thru
the Venmo app.
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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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Welcome Members and Visitors today!

Bible Studies.....

Monday night Bible Study will resume January 26th
at 7:00pm.

Thursday Bible Study will resume January 8th at Noon.

Please take your Offering Envelopes for 2026.

Dinner Church...Join us TODAY at 5:30 for
Worship; dinner is at 6:00PM

January Community Meal... Monday, Jan. 19th
Doors open at 5:00 PM. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM.
See Pastor John if you can help!

Annual Congregational Meeting...

Sunday, January 25th.
There will be ONE SERVICE that day at 10am with the
meeting to follow.

The Endowment committee is now accepting requests for the distribution of funds for the year ending 2025.

The Congregation Bylaws provide that the funds are to be distributed **as follows:**

-Capital Improvements 30 to 50%

(capital improvements, debt reduction of building projects)

-Scholarships up to 33%

(members of Holy Trinity for the purpose of attending college, seminary, nursing or medical school, church related camps and conferences)

-Community Outreach up to 33%

(grants to ELCA colleges, camps, social services and agencies for those persons in our parish area)

-ELCA Missions up to 33%

(ELCA missions at home and overseas, new mission development in the USA, professional leadership, educational ministries, world mission and TV evangelism)

All requests for funds must be **in writing** and mailed/ emailed to the church office no later than **January 11, 2026**. Please call the office with any questions.

Men's Group Breakfast January 10th at 8am.
See Pastor John for details.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

	8:15	10:00
Assisting Minister		Colleen Cochenour
Communion Assistants		Joe Thomas Mike Stark
Lector		
Acolyte		Will Little
Greeters		Doug and Nancy Woodring
Altar Guild		

Set-up Saturday, Dec. 27	Lori Thomas	
Sunday, Dec. 28	8:15	
	10:00	Zack and Samantha Tinsley
Set-up Saturday, Jan. 3		Debbie Kunkle and Mimi Wielobob
Sunday, Jan. 4	8:15	Julie Kuhn and Glenda Wendling
	10:45	Debbie Kunkle and Mimi Wielobob

Food Pantry 2026 Dates: February 21 (Easter), April 18, June 13, August 15, October 17 (Thanksgiving), December 12 (Christmas)

Items needed currently, special requests:

Instant coffee/teabags	Hot chocolate mix	Olive oil/vegetable oil
Valentine candy	Paper towels	Deodorant
Shampoo and conditioner		

Items always requested:

Mac & cheese/pasta	Applesauce	Baked beans	Canned fruit
Canned tuna	Cereal	Granola bars	Pasta Sauce
Oatmeal	Paper Towels	Peanut butter & Jelly	
Potato/rice mix	Pudding Cups	Toilet Paper	
Peanut Butter and Cheese Crackers		Cake/muffin/brownie mix	
Chef Boyardee	Canned Vegetables		

Many thanks for the generous donations to date! If you would like to donate money, please mark "food pantry" in the subject line on your check or you may use one of the pew envelopes. Food pantry contact: Jodi Waugaman at 724-516-9680 or waugawoman86@comcast.net

December 28, 2025

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned.

When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives,
In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court,
In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,
In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we sanitize your birth place and erase from memory the poor and displaced,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,

In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

God's light is present in this world.

Present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness.

Present in the star, in all that guides us to love.

God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it.

God's grace is in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it.

We are loved, we are forgiven.

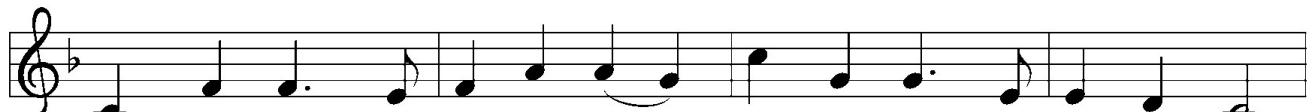
Alleluia! Amen.

***Opening Song: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* #270**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



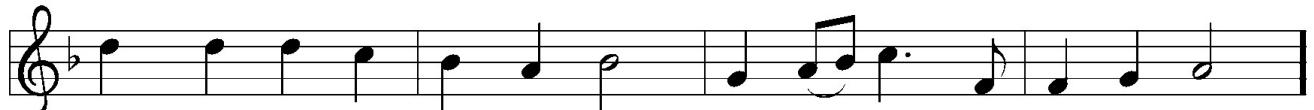
1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



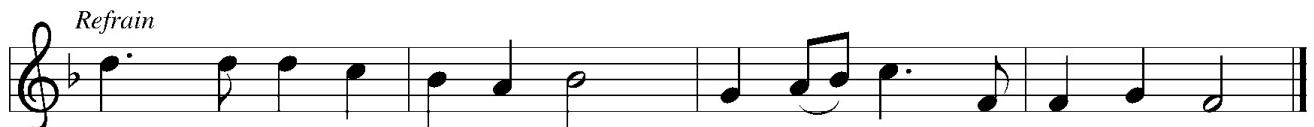
peace on earth, and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled."
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal-ing in his wings.



Joy-ful, all you na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in-car-nate de-i-ty!
 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an-gele-ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all. **And also with you.**

* Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

First Lesson Reading: [Genesis 3:1-15](#)

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and

I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

Song: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #282 verses 1 and 2

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.



Prayer:

Lord of mercy,
despite our sinfulness,
you never stopped loving us.
Fill our hearts with your mercy,
that we may forgive others.
Amen.

Second Lesson Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Song: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming #272 verses 1 and 2

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 - grace ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

1 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

1 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

1 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.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Matthes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Prayer:

Lord, you promised that your reign
 would bring the justice
 that would never end.
 May we help to bring this justice in our time.
Amen.

Third Lesson Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

- He shall not judge by what his eyes see
 or decide by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
 and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
 the calf and the lion will feed together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain,
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Song: *Once in Royal David's City* #269 verses 1 and 2

Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Prayer:

Lord, we wait for the day of your peace. May we help to bring this peace in our families, our communities, and our world. **Amen.**

Fourth Lesson Reading: Micah 5:2-4

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

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

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth,

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem #279 verses 1 and 2

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'dring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

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

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one sharp. The first staff contains the first four lines of the text. The second staff contains the second four lines. The third staff contains the middle section of the text. The fourth staff contains the final section of the text. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a dynamic marking of 'p' (piano) in the middle section.

Prayer: God, you are always with us. May we always trust in your presence and share it with those around us. **Amen**

Fifth Lesson Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Song: O Little Town of Bethlehem #279 verses 3 and 4

Prayer:

Lord,
you asked Joseph and Mary to trust in you.
May we come to share in their trust
and always rely on you.

Amen.

Sixth Lesson Reading: Luke 2:1-18

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them,

Song: *What Child is This* #296

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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Prayer:

Lord, you came to us in humility and vulnerability. May we always show loving care to those around us, especially those in most need. **Amen.**

Seventh Lesson Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² 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.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘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.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Song: We Three Kings Verses 1 and 5

WE THREE KINGS

KINGS OF ORIENT

Verses

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
 2. Born a King on Beth - le-hem's plain, Gold I bring to
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: In - cense owns a
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a life of
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and

1. tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
 2. crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er, Ceas - ing nev - er
 3. De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing Glad - ly rais - ing,
 4. gath - er - ing gloom; Sor - rowing, sigh - ing, Bleed - ing, dy - ing,
 5. Sac - ri - fice; "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!"

Refrain

1. Fol - low - ing yon - der star. O star of won - der,
 2. O - ver us all to reign.
 3. Wor - ship him, God on high.
 4. Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5. Sounds through the earth and skies.

star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright; West - ward
 lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to thy per - fect light.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11.
 Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

Prayer: Lord, you are the giver of all good gifts. May we always remember to share our gifts with others for the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Eighth Lesson Reading: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.

Song: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* #295 verses 1 and 2

Prayer:

God of power and might, you are beyond all time and space. May we never fail to recognize your majesty and give praise to you in all we do. **Amen**

Ninth Lesson Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* #290

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
 go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

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

Refrain

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

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

Prayer:

Lord, you call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Fill our words with power that we may proclaim your good news and draw all people to you. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

Offering Choir: *The Coventry Carol*

***Offertory Response VERSE #3**

In the Bleak Midwinter

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

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

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

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

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

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of wonder,

we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us, all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. **Amen.**

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Great Thanksgiving

~O Come, All Ye Faithful~

ADESTE FIDELIS
attr. John Francis Wade

PASTOR:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

ALL:

PASTOR:

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

ALL:

*PREFACE

Christmas Proper Preface

~O Come All Ye Faithful~

1 It is our right, our du - ty and our joy, that we should in

6 all pla - ces and times give praise to you, Al - migh - ty mer - ci - ful

12 God, through Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior, who born of Vir - gin Ma - ry and

17 by the Ho - ly Spir - it be - came man. In the won - der and my - st'ry

23 of the Word made flesh you've op - ened the eyes of faith to your glo - rious sight.

29 We may be drawn to God whom we can - not see. And

33 so, with choirs of an - gels with the church and hosts of hea - ven we

37 praise your name and join the un - end - ing hymn of praise:

***Holy, Holy**

Holy, Holy, Holy

~Angels We Have Heard on High~

French Carol

The musical score consists of five staves of music in G clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are in French, with some words in English. The score is divided into four sections by measure numbers 1, 5, 9, and 13.

Section 1 (Measures 1-4):

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,

Section 2 (Measures 5-8):

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

Section 3 (Measures 9-12):

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Section 4 (Measures 13-16):

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord, of the

Section 5 (Measures 17-20):

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

***The Words of Institution**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have granted to us through Jesus, the Word made flesh, the child of Mary; the Light of the world, our Immanuel. Send the Spirit of your Son into our hearts, that as your beloved children we may welcome our Savior who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

O Come Let Us Adore Him

~O Come, All Ye Faithful~

attr. John Francis Wade

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen

~Hark the Herald Angels Sing~ Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847
William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

A - men, ____ a - men, a - men, ____ a - men.

***LORD'S PRAYER Pastor**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
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**

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

AGNUS DEI*Lamb of God**

~The First Nowell~

THE FIRST NOWELL

arr. John Stainer 1840-1901

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

Communion***COMMUNION BLESSING** Pastor

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

*SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Is - ra - el.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *assisting minister*

Let us pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and [☩] give you peace.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #288*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



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

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

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

*Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on Earth!