



Welcome to
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 5, 2025



The Newborn Christ (c. 1645-1648), Georges de La Tour (1593-1652).

St. Anne visits Mary and the infant Jesus, holding a candle obscured by her hand. The interplay of light and darkness, known as chiaroscuro, creates intimacy and draws the eye to the face of Christ.

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

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER

Pam Wasmuth
BOOKEEPER

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COORDINATOR

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 AM

Congregational words are in bold print.

*Stand in body or
spirit and face the
processional cross.*

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

*Silence is kept for
reflection.*

INTROIT

We Go On Waiting

Ben Hoover, tenor

Weston Priory

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin
to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit

that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved
our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake
God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295



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.

Text: Marcus
Aurelius Clemens
Prudentius, 348-413;
tr. composite

Music: DIVINUM
MYSTERIUM,
plainsong mode V,
13th cent.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

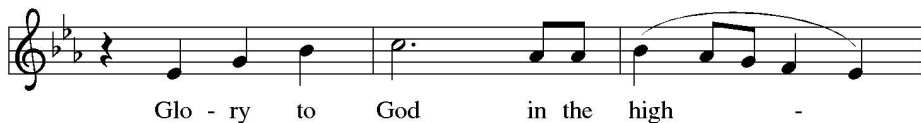
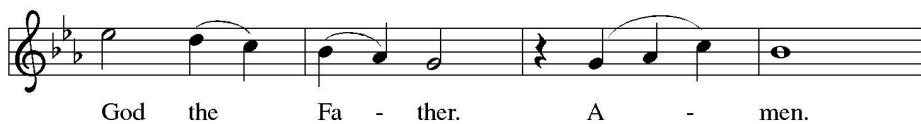
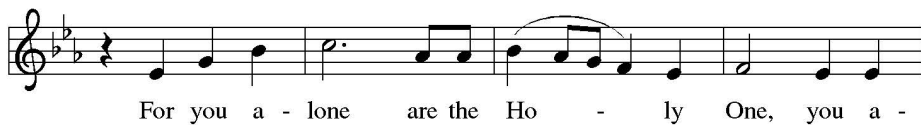
*We praise God using
this ancient prayer
from Setting One in
Evangelical Lutheran
Worship.*



Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Continues on
the next page...*

HYMN OF PRAISE



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

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.”

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.

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.

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.”

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
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.

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.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The choir introduces
the refrain.*



Wor - ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi - on.

*The congregation
repeats the refrain
and sings the refrain
where indicated with
the symbol **R**.*



Worship the Lord, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,
**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**
God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
**God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly. **R****

God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.
**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**
The Lord sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.
**God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**
The Lord has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah! **R**

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, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set

forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 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, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 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; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand
 in body or spirit.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (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.' ") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 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.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

Please stand
in body or spirit.

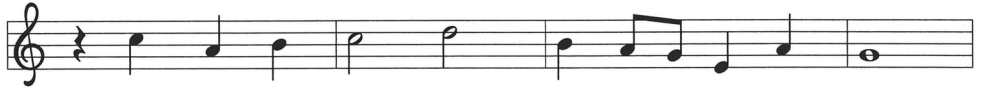
HYMN OF THE DAY

Peace Came to Earth

ELW 285



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



when an - gels clove the sky with song and light
the in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pains,
How else could I have loved you, O my God!



and God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might—
the wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled—
in bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain—
How else could I em - brace you, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J.
Vajda, 1919-2008

Music: Paul Manz,
1919-2009

Text © 1984 Concordia
Publishing House.

Music © 1991
Birnamwood
Publications, a div. of
MorningStar Music
Publications, Inc.

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.**

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

*After the final
petition:*

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peg Coleman
- ♦ Ed Coleman
- ♦ Rachel Gambone
- ♦ Pat McMahon
- ♦ Patricia Wasmuth

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Chris Kissinger & Rebecca Watkins
- ♦ Barbara Kline
- ♦ Judith Krick
- ♦ Amy, Igor, Anna & Nina Litvinov
- ♦ Hannah & Micah Long

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Celia Constantino
- ♦ Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith)
- ♦ the Sawyer family
- ♦ David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh)
- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Craig Poole
- ♦ Chris Drayer
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ Christine Wells (friend of Jan Opalinski)
- ♦ Donna Osborne
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Nancy Souders-Negri and Fred Negri

PEACE

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OFFERTORY

Epiphany Carol

arr. by Stephen Decesare

Maria Yost, soprano and Ben Hoover, tenor

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW181

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

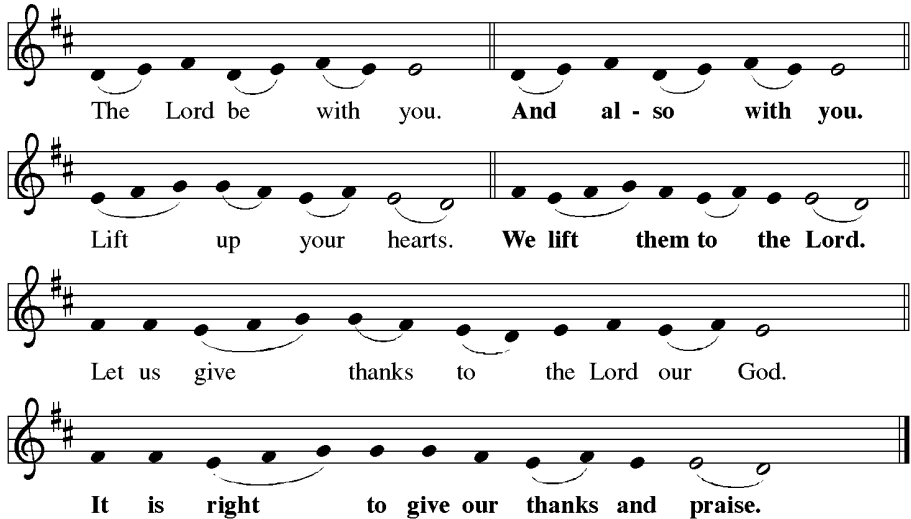
Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any

way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



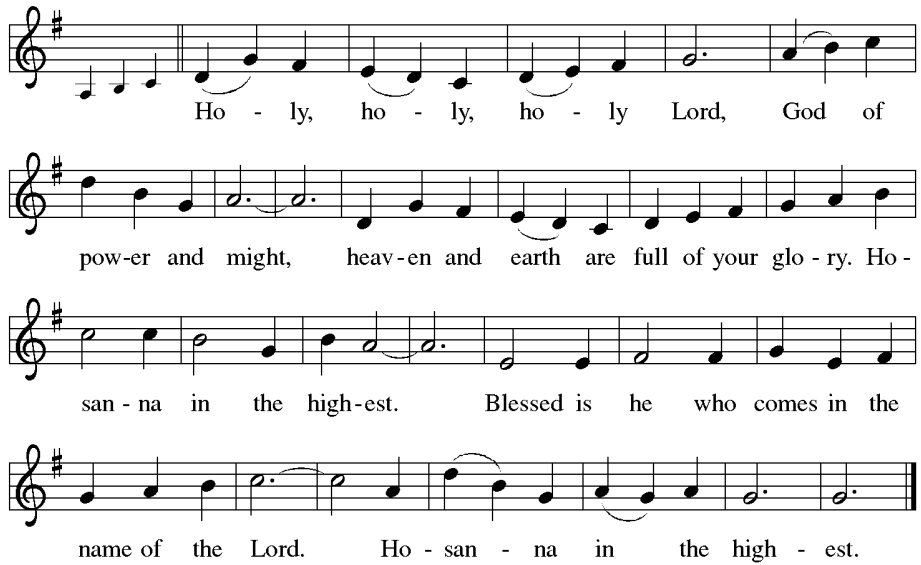
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
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, 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

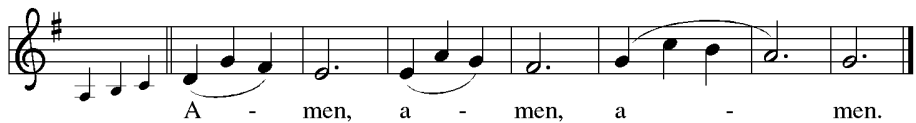
You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy...
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion...

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



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

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.**

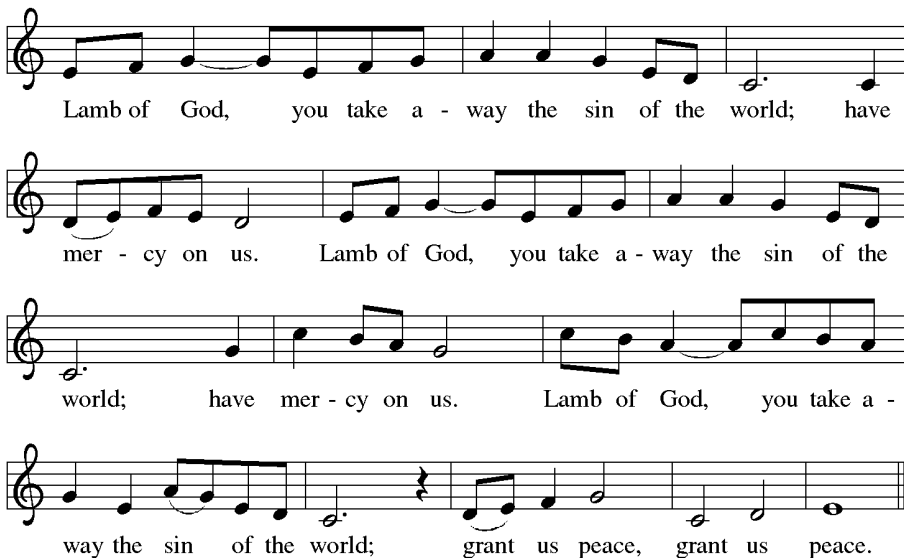
*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated.

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.*

HYMN DURING DISTRIBUTION

Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 490

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread
of life and cup of salvation you have
united us with Christ, making us one
with all your people. Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit, that we

may proclaim your redeeming love to
the world and continue forever in the
risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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

BLESSING

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.

*In a centuries-old
Lutheran tradition,
we conclude our
worship by listening
to Simeon's song of
gratitude to God.*

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

*You may remain
in the sanctuary
for prayer and
contemplation during
the postlude. If you
depart, please do so
quietly.*

NUNC DIMITTIS

Maria Yost, soprano and Ben Hoover, tenor

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. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In Dir ist Freude

J.S. Bach

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

Pr. Hans E. Becklin

USHERS

Jeff and Pam Wasmuth, and Amy Reinsel

ASSISTING MINISTER

Virginia Biniek

MEDIA TEAM

Grace Norton-Ritz, Danielle Smith,

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

and Katherine Speece

LECTOR

Jacinda Motley

ALTAR GUILD

Bernadette Ilgen; Jacinda, Josh, and

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Amy Bornhofen

Linda Motley; Charlene Norton,

ACOLYTE

Avery Mazur

Robin Oberholtzer, Beth Welz

GREETERS

Anita Dolak

WORSHIP PLANNER

Donna Osborne

Today's flowers are sponsored by

Dar Unger

in loving memory of

her husband, Richard

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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room
SUNDAY TIME - Meet in Chapel

10:00 AM

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House
COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

6:00 PM

YOUTH AND FAMILY TWELFTH NIGHT
AT THE ROSENBAUM'S

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

12:05 PM

MID-WEEK CHAPEL WORSHIP

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Hintz Room

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

10:00 AM

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room
SUNDAY TIME- Meet in Chapel

10:00 AM

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House
COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND SOCIAL ON JANUARY 11TH



Whether you're a lector, acolyte, assisting minister, communion assistant, usher, or do many of those roles, plan to join us for a brief refresher on serving in worship from 10 AM to noon on Saturday, January 11th.

The brief training sessions will take place in the sanctuary while those not being trained enjoy coffee, hot chocolate, and treats in the Hintz Room. This means that if you and your family participate in multiple ways, you'll be able to enjoy a time of fellowship during the "down time".

We plan to offer this annually as a way of maintaining our skills!