



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville
Christ Lutheran Church, Sharon
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hermitage

First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020

Service of the Word

Significance of the Day: The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Gathering

Prelude

Selected Seasonal Carols

(Brahms; Held)

Greeting and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

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.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

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.

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.

Opening Hymn

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.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Anthem

Bleak Midwinter

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

A reading from Isaiah:

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
2 The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
2 Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
3 Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
4 Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,
6 who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law which shall not | pass away.
7 Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
8 fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
9 mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
10 wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;
11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
12 young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.
13 Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted,
whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
14 The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD.
| Hallelujah!

A reading from Galatians:

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the

Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,

according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Pastor Dennis Blauser

Hymn of the Day

In a Lowly Manger Born



1 In a low - ly man - ger born, hum - ble life be - gun in scorn;
 2 Vis - it - ing the lone and lost, stead - y - ing the tem - pest - tossed,
 3 Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up - on the tree.



un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye, Je - sus grew as you and I;
 giv - ing of him - self in love, call - ing minds to things a - bove.
 See in him God's love re - vealed; by his pas - sion we are healed.



knew the suf - f'rings of the weak, knew the pa - tience of the meek,
 Sin - ners glad - ly hear his call; pub - li - cans be - fore him fall,
 Now he lives in glo - ry bright, lives a - gain in pow'r and might;



hun - gered as but poor folk can; this is he. Be - hold the man!
 for in him new life be - gan; this is he. Be - hold the man!
 come and take the path he trod, son of Mar - y, Son of God.

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
In accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need, responding, “Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great”

(Brief silence)

A: Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; for our pastors, church council members, musicians, teachers and all who do you work with their hands. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Help us to see the beauty of your work in the greenery we use to decorate in this season. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. We pray for our president, Donald; our president-elect, Joe; our governor, Tom; and all local municipal and school leaders. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness. We especially pray during this pandemic for all who are sick, all who have a lingering recovery, all who have lost income, business owners whose life work has been damaged, those who are exhausted by the changes in every corner of our lives. Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For all your saints, especially Bob and Jayna, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

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

Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

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.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Finale on *In Dulci Jubilo*

(Manz)

Serving Today

Presiding Ministers Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon
Ron Tomko, Holy Trinity, Hermitage
David Lineman, Holy Trinity, Greenville
Organist Maidene Hackett
Cantor Karen Emmett

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College

This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, December 27, 2020, *First Sunday after Christmas*

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Liturgy of the Word
NO Sunday Church School/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

- 7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

NO Weekday Communion

Thursday, December 31, 2020

NO Weekday Communion

Friday, January 1, 2021, *New Year's Day*

Office Closed

Saturday, January 2, 2021

No Liturgy

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 3, 2021, *2nd Sunday after Christmas*

- 9:30 a.m. Virtual Liturgy of the Word
10:45 a.m. Sunday Church School/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. AA Big Book meeting

Tuesday, January 4, 2021

- 7:00 p.m. Property Committee
7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

NO Weekday Communion

- 7:00 p.m. Virtual Epiphany Service

Thursday, January 7, 2021

NO Weekday Communion

- 7:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

Saturday, January 9, 2021

No Liturgy

Noted This Week

Twelfth Night Congregation Fellowship: We will hold a Twelfth Night celebration on **Tuesday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m.** This night of readings and music will also include an opportunity for you to bless your homes. The celebration will be held via Zoom. We will send the email links through our Facebook group and in email. If you do not receive an invitation and would like one, please contact our church office by Jan. 5, so it can be sent to you.

Celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, 7:00 p.m.: A liturgy celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord will be held on Wednesday, January 6, at 7 p.m. The service will be **live-streamed** as our Sunday services are live-streamed. We will celebrate the visit to the infant Jesus by the three men from afar who are bearing gifts. The celebration is that Jesus, the Savior, has been made known to the world.

The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 10, the First Sunday after the Epiphany, is the day in the life of the Church Year when we commemorate the Baptism of Our Lord. The service will be **live-streamed**. Worship will focus on Holy Baptism through hymns, lessons, sermon, and prayers at each of the liturgies and, we will include the opportunity to Affirm our Baptisms. Be a part, as our community of Jesus' disciples observes the Baptism of Our Lord, and probes its meaning for our lives and our part in God's saving mission.

New Members: Pastor Brenda will be talking with a number of our frequent visitors about whether they would like to become members of Holy Trinity. If you have an interest in membership, please speak with Pastor Brenda.

Good Shepherd December Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **December is boxed or canned meals**. Donations may be dropped off at the church office or directly at the Food Pantry.

Stewardship

“The Generosity Project: Growing in God’s Grace Generation to Generation” is the theme of our 2020/2021 financial stewardship emphasis.

If you have not done so yet, please return your Commitment Card in the next couple of weeks.

Extra Commitment Cards are available. If you need one please contact the church office.

Please Pray For

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before your call the office. Thanks.

Health and Healing:

Earl and Carol (friends of Bonnie Long)	Jim
Ronald (friend of Linda Bateman)	Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong)
Carl (nephew of Betty K. Junk)	William J. (father of Catherine Mott)
Bill and Katie (friends of Barbara Swartz)	Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk)
Tammy (friend of Jill Murrin)	Lori
Betty K.	Carl
Ed and Cathy	Paul
Hank (son of Henry and Ruth Heil)	Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst)
Janet (friend of Gloria Spargo)	Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman)
Kate (friend of Paul and Sue Bittler)	

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Bob Dorfeld
Jayna Spigelmeyer
Rick (friend of Betty K. Junk)

In Military Service

Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)
Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Frederiksberg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)
Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)
CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)
Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen)
Ian McQuiston, US Air Force, Kuwait (friend of Betty K. Junk)