



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

*Second Sunday after Christmas*  
*January 3, 2021*

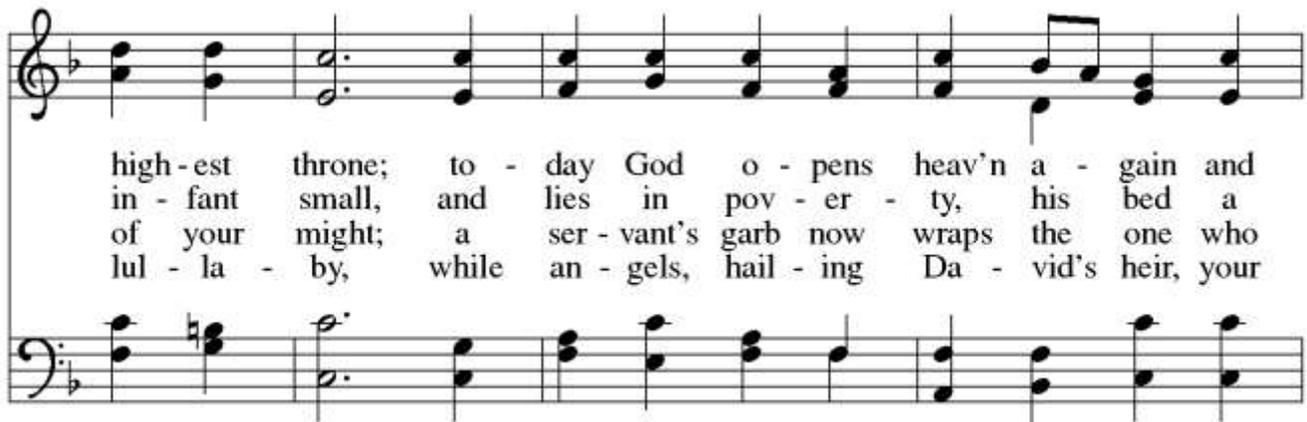


Opening Hymn

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the  
 2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an  
 3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor  
 4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
 in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a  
 of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who  
 lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.  
 man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.  
 clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.  
 glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

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 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.**

*Word*

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah:

7 For 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.”

8 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.

9 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.

10 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.”

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

12 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.

13 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.

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:12-20

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

A reading from Ephesians:

3 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, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 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, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 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; 14 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.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia.

All the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory of our God.

Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(The reading of the Gospel.)*

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 overcome 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. 15 (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.'") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing, Word al - migh - ty,  
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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: Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, council members and teachers. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm’s way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness, especially those experiencing the symptoms of Covid-19. Protect our front-line workers in this pandemic -- the paramedics and ambulance drivers, the doctors offices and pharmacists, the physicians and nurses and all those working in health-care facilities and nursing homes. Hear us, O God.

**C. Your mercy is great.**

A: You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

A: You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially Bob, Donald, Evelyn, and Jayna. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. 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, 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.**

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 *Mendelssohn*

(Gerry)

## **Serving Today**

**Presiding Ministers . . . .** Pastor Dennis Blausen, Christ Lutheran, Sharon  
Ron Tomko, Holy Trinity, Hermitage  
Pastor Brenda Martin, Holy Trinity, Greenville  
**Organist . . . . .** Maidene Hackett  
**Cantor . . . . .** Lauren Faber

## **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, 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

### **Monday, January 3, 2021**

- 7:00 p.m. Property Committee

### **Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

- 6:30 p.m. 12th Night Celebration (virtual)**
- 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*

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Sunday, January 10, 2021, *Baptism of Our Lord***

- 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 12, 2021**

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
  - 5:15 p.m. Worship and Music
  - 7:00 p.m. Parish Education Committee (Zoom)
  - 7:00 p.m. AA and AA Women's Discussion
- Council reports due today*

### **Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

- 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Committee

### **Thursday, January 14, 2021**

- 5:00 p.m. Officers' Planning Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 8:00 p.m. Happy Hour (Zoom)

### **Saturday, January 16, 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, 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 January 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 **January is soups and stews**. 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:**

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

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

The Rev. Donald Hake  
Cynthia Richardson (mom of Ray and Cathy Richardson)  
Evelyn Ramming  
Sally Werner (friend of the congregation)  
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)