



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity
Greenville, Pennsylvania*

*The First Sunday of Christmas
December 26, 2021*

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

We welcome and encourage children of all ages to be in worship. Sitting with children in a front pew and giving them the seat on the center aisle helps them to see and participate in our worship. For children who are present in worship, there are coloring and activity pages with crayons available in the narthex. They are located by the coat rack on the bottom shelf of the pamphlet rack. Please return the unused pages, clipboard, and crayons after the service.

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Liturgy of Holy Communion, Setting Four

*The Liturgy is on pages 147-155 of the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Hymns are in the second half of the book (ELW). The assembly's responses are in **bold type**.*

*(Please remember to turn off your cell phone. Thank you.
We prepare in prayer and holy silence.)*

Significance of the Day: On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

Gathering

Prelude Variation on *Good King Wenceslas* (Hustaad)

Greeting and Announcements

(The assembly stands as the minister enters.)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

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.

(The assembly remains standing. Silence is kept for reflection.)

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.

Amen.

The Gathering Song

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.



Christmas Dialog

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

Hymn of Praise

The musical score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains four numbered verses of lyrics. The second system contains the main body of the hymn. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line of lyrics. The fourth system is the continuation of the refrain.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

Anthem

Nunc dimitis

(Luvaas)

Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.
For my eyes have seen thy salvation
Which thou hast prepared in the face of thy people,
To be a light to the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Canticle of Simeon

Word

First Reading

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

A reading from 1 Samuel:

18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

(Psalm will be sung responsively by verse. **Refrain follows verse 14.**)



- 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! (R)**

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians:

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands.)

Gospel Acclamation



The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." 49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly is seated.)

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

(As the organ sounds the assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.)

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

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence, responding, Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, musicians, worship leaders, lectors, teachers and council members. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Lift up the ministries of the Good Shepherd Center and the Salvation Army in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness, especially Sunny and Chuck. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Are there others for whom we should pray?

Pastor: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Peace

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

(The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

(The assembly is seated.)

Meal

Offering

Music during the Offering

Interlude

(Murray)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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.

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:

Holy, holy, holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are indeed holy,
almighty and merciful God;
you are most holy,
and great is the majesty
of your glory.

We give thanks through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son,
whom you sent
in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us

and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,
inseparable from you.

Through him you created all things,
and in him you take delight.

He is your Word,
sent from heaven
to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature
and our lot and
was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit
and of the virgin Mary.

Having come into the world,
he fulfilled for us your holy will
and accomplished our salvation.

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.



Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored
in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread
and cup, that, nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is
yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.



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.

Breaking of Bread

In this Holy Sacrament God makes a home with us.

Let us approach in wonder at all that God has done.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

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.

The Communion of the Faithful

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle (Stanza 3)

3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system begins with a vocal line starting on a G4 note. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines. The second system continues the melody. The third system features a vocal line that rises to a higher pitch. The fourth system concludes with a vocal line that repeats the phrase 'Christ was born to save!'.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

God of light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation in this holy feast you have prepared for us. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(Silence for reflection.)

Sending

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, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen. *(Sung)*

Sending Hymn

Cold December Flies Away



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God’s people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Variation on *Irby*

(Hustaad)

Serving Today

Presiding Minister	Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist	Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon	Jane McCall
Communion Assistant	Catherine Snyder
Acolyte/Crucifer	Nora Taylor
Lector	Laura Chesmer
Head Ushers	Linda Armstrong
Altar Guild	Martin Family

Acknowledgments

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Today’s Hymnody

269	Once in Royal David’s City	IRBY
275	Angels From the Realms of Glory	REGENT SQUARE
718	In a Lowly Manger Born	MABUNE
288	Good Christian Friends	IN DULCI JUBLIO
299	Cold December Flies Away	EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT