

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025



PRELUDE

WELCOME STATEMENT

PROCESSIONAL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" ELW 282

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.
Amen.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God, we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“There’s Still My Joy”

Manchester, Rollings, Chapman

Arr. by Roger Emerson

Performed by Mary Heider, Pastor Phil Potaczek, Suzannah Walter

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 288, Vs. 2

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God’s own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God’s gracious deeds. God trusts that God’s people will not act falsely.

A reading from Isaiah.

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
8 For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,”
and he became their savior
9 in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

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!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.

A reading from Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Love Has Come”

ELW 292, v.1

(The Assembly stands for the gospel.)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:13-23

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

ELW 287

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each prayer petition, please respond: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

Come now and kneel before the Christ child. Bring all that you are and all that you have.
We offer ourselves in wonder, surprise, and awe. We offer our gifts in joy and delight.

Tears are falling
Hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You’ve been promised
We’ve been waiting
Welcome holy Child
Welcome holy Child

Hope that You don’t mind our manger
How I wish we would have known
But long-awaited holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace
Into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking heaven’s silence
Welcome to our world
Welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born
Unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh around You
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin and make us holy
Perfect Son of God
Perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world

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OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the giver of life.....Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

“What Child is This”

ELW 296

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“Go Tell it on the Mountain”

ELW 290

SENDING

Glory to god in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Our Eucharist has ended.

Now it must be lived.

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)"

Chris Tomlin

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*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- **Trinity needs a few more people to serve on Committees.** Please contact Carol Wahlstrom carolwahlstrom@gmail.com if interested.
 - **Sunday January 11th immediately after Service**, we will hold the **Property Committee** Informational meeting.
 - ***Why the Christmas Trees Stay Up Through Epiphany***
In the Christian tradition, Christmas is not just a day, it is a season that lasts twelve days, from December 25 through January 5. We keep the Christmas trees up through Epiphany (January 6) to celebrate the full season and to mark the day when Christ is revealed as the Light for all nations. If Epiphany falls midweek, many churches will wait until the following Sunday (the Baptism of Our Lord). During this time immediately after Epiphany, the lights on the trees remind us of the star that led the Magi and of Jesus, the Light of the world. By leaving the trees up through Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord, we honor the whole story of Christmas: Christ is born, and Christ is revealed to all people as God's Son.
 - **On January 11, 2026**, after the Property Committee Informational meeting, **Trinity will be taking down the decorations and trees** in the Sanctuary. Please come and join us! Help is always appreciated! There is a sign up sheet in Java Junction.
 - The tree in Java Junction will be the collection point for **hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks to help out those in need. January 11th will be the last day for collection.** All child/youth/adult sizes are accepted. Thank you for your continuing generosity. For more information, contact the Mission/Outreach Team.
 - **Sunday January 18th immediately after Service** we will hold the **Finance Committee** Informational meeting.
 - **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project.** Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
 - The December 17th blood drive was a huge success! 36 units were collected! **The next drive will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.** Contact Carol Wahlstrom if interested in helping or donating.
 - Many people in Jamaica and Haiti have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. You can give help by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response. At give.ELCA.org/hurricanes, just type in "Lutheran Disaster Response," select Hurricane Helene, make a contribution. Or send a check to: Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009.
 - **TLC Prayer Requests.**
 - . To submit a *public* prayer request to the congregation, please reach out to Diane diane@trinitylutheranottawa.com
 - . To submit a *private* prayer request, connect with Pastor Phil (pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com).
 - . When you submit a public prayer request, please include only the information you are comfortable having printed in the bulletin. We will publish the request as written, but may shorten it for clarity and privacy. If you wish to remain anonymous, please specify.
 - . Each request will appear in the bulletin once. We will publish updates as you provide them.
 - . Even when a request is no longer printed, our whole church family is encouraged to add these needs to their personal prayer lists.
- Thank you for holding these requests before God with such care. - *Pastor Phil*

- Have you seen the **ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue**? It's full of **ways to help people in developing countries**. You can: Buy animals: \$10 for chicks, \$50 for a goat, \$20 for honeybees, \$30 for a piglet. Support health & nutrition: \$30 for a water filter, \$30 for a child's vaccinations, \$10 for a mosquito net, \$25 for a hygiene kit. Help in times of crisis: \$10 for a blanket, \$50 to feed a refugee family for a week. Agriculture: \$50 for seeds and gardening tools, \$200 for a community vegetable garden, \$150 to start a fruit tree farm, \$10 for a fruit tree seedling. There's much more! The website is <https://goodgifts.elca.org>.

- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Nov Income = \$21,671.17 (Income YTD = \$215,068.81)
- Nov Expense = \$21,920.12 (Expense YTD = \$222,034.84)
- Income Less Expense = -\$248.95 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$6,966.03)
- Loan Payment = \$2,943.30
- Principal Payment = \$1,000.00
- Left On Loan = \$3,341.24

- **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (12/29):** 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
- **Tuesday (12/30):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (12/31)** *Church Office Closed
No Bible Study
No Choir Rehearsal*
- **Thursday (1/1):** *New Year's Day
Church Office Closed
No Sit Fit*
- **Friday (1/2):** *No Sunrise Rotary*
- **Saturday (1/3):** *National Chocolate Covered Cherries Day!* 
- **Sunday (1/4)**
9a Epiphany Blessing
9a Sunday Session
10a Holy Communion

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Crucifer/Acolyte:
Ushers:
Lector: *Amy Boyles*
Communion Assistants:
Altar Guild: *Debbie Guenther & Sue Williamson*
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
Altar Flowers:

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Pearl*
Ushers:
Lector: *Justin Reed*
Communion Assistants:
Altar Guild:
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
Altar Flowers: