

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2026



PRELUDE

WELCOME STATEMENT

PROCESSIONAL

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

ELW 276

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.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW 288, Vs. 3

OLD TESTAMENT READING*Jeremiah 31:7-14*

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

A reading from Jeremiah.

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 where 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 does 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,
says the Lord.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children 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.**

God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against 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 judgments to Israel.**

The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God.

(The Assembly stands for the gospel.)

GOSPEL READING*Matthew 2:13-23*

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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. 12 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 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 the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

ELW 295

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.

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.

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Chorus 2

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am

TAG

I am who You say I am

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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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 1, page 108

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

“Thy Word”

Amy Grant & Michael Smith

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path

I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide
And hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end

When I feel afraid
And I think I've lost my way
Still You're there right beside me
Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near
Please be near me to the end

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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.

Verse 1

I want to scream it out
From ev'ry mountain top
Your goodness knows no bounds
Your goodness never stops
Your mercy follows me
Your kindness fills my life
Your Love amazes me

Chorus

(And / Yes) I sing because You are good
And I dance because You are good
And I shout because You are good
You are good to me (to me)

Verse 2

Nothing and no one comes
Anywhere close to You
The earth and oceans deep
Only reflect this truth
And in my darkest night
You shine as bright as day
Your Love amazes me

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.

Bridge

With a cry of praise my heart will proclaim
You are good You are good
In the sun or rain my life celebrates
You are good You are good

Ending

Yes I'll sing
Yes I'll dance
and I shout
For You are good
You are good to me

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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.
- 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.
- This year's **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for after Holy Communion at **11 am on Sunday, February 1st, 2026.** A quorum of 50 congregation members is needed. Please plan to attend. Thank you!
- **The next Blood Drive will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.** Contact Carol Wahlstrom if interested in helping or donating.
- **First Communion classes** are scheduled for **9am-9:50am on Sunday, March 15th & March 29th, 2026.** We meet in Fellowship Hall, beneath the Sanctuary. **First Communion Sunday is Sunday, April 12th, 2026.** Individuals who have not yet received the Sacrament of Holy Communion who are aged 7 or older are invited! Please register by emailing Pastor Phil (pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com). Thank you!
- **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*

● **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 (1/5):** 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
4:30p Mission Committee Meeting (Community Room)
6p Christian Ed Meeting (Board Room)
- **Tuesday (1/6):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (1/7)** *No Bible Study*
6:30p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- **Thursday (1/8):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
1p Trinity Stitchers (Sewing Room)
- **Friday (1/9):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday (1/10):** *House Plant Appreciation Day!* 
- **Sunday (1/11)** 9a Sunday Session
9a Affirmation Class
10a Holy Communion & Baptism
11a Property Committee Informational Meeting (Java Junction)
11:30a Christmas decorations/trees clean up

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

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

Sunday, January 4, 2026

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

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Pearl*
Ushers:
Lector: *Shannon Matteson*
Communion Assistants: *Shannon Matteson, Mike Matteson, Ann Enke*
Altar Guild: *Jan Constantine, Becky Glaser*
Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*
Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
Altar Flowers: