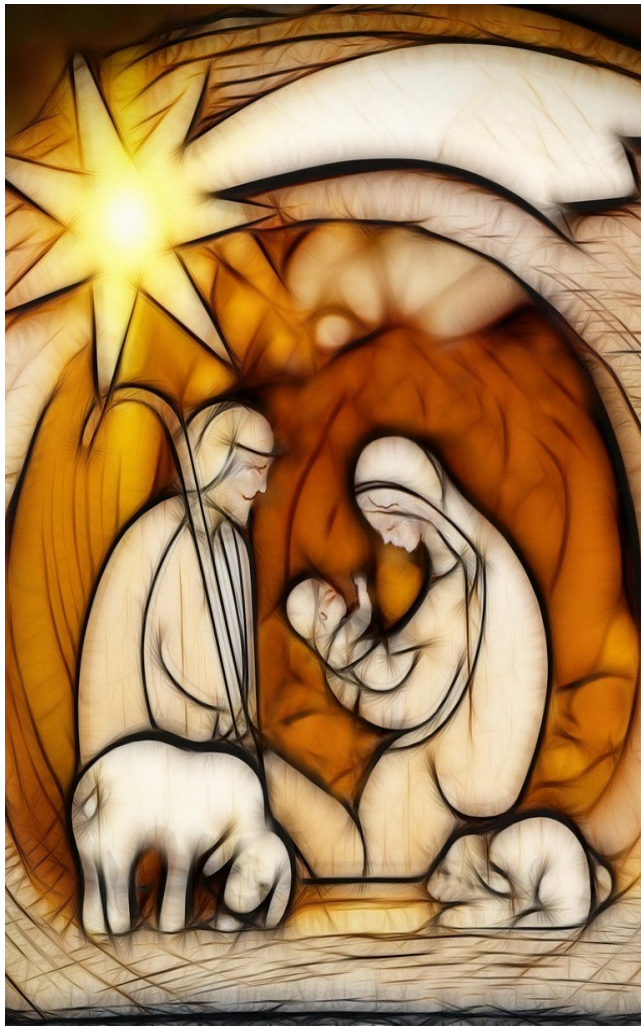


Sunday, December 28, 2025

First Sunday After Christmas



A Savior Is Born to Be the True Son of God



HOLY TRINITY
Lutheran Church

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 **Evangelical
Lutheran
Synod**

www.els.org

Welcome to Holy Trinity

We're glad you came today to join us in worshiping the one true God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He has graciously created us, mercifully redeemed us, and freely gives us all the treasures of heaven through His Word and Sacraments!

If you are a visitor with us today and want to find out more about what we teach, or are curious about church membership, please talk to our pastor. Please be sure to provide us with your contact information in our friendship register that is passed around before or after the service.

Restrooms are located on the north end of the fellowship hall through the doors to the Learning Center. Additional restrooms with changing tables are located to the left of the entrance to the fellowship hall, through the doors to the Learning Center, then to the left.

Parents who need to leave the service to have quiet time with their child are welcome to use any of our classrooms in the Learning Center.

HOLY TRINITY is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), a national church body headquartered in Mankato, Minnesota. We confess that we are saved by Grace Alone (Eph. 2:8) through Faith Alone (Acts 16:31) revealed in Scripture Alone (John 5:24). Though we are totally sinful from birth, Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the cross and gives us eternal life in heaven. We subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions (the Book of Concord, 1580) because they are a faithful and accurate summary of this Biblical doctrine. The ELS has been in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) since 1872.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Hymn • “*Angels from the Realms of Glory*”

[CW93 80]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Once you sang creation’s story;
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.</p> | <p>3. Magi, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great desire of nations;
You have seen the Savior’s star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.</p> |
| <p>2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing—
Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.</p> | <p>4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.</p> |

-Stand-

PASTOR *The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.*

CONGREGATION **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P *We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.*

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P *God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.*

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P *In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.*

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are

they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -

ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -

ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

☞ *Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

🔊 **Amen.**

-Be seated-

THE WORD

First Lesson • Isaiah 63:7-9

The kindness of the Lord is seen in sending a Savior to redeem those who turn away from him.

I will tell about the LORD's mercies,
about the praises of the LORD,
about all that the LORD has done for us,
about his great goodness to the house of Israel,
which he performed for them according to his abundant compassion,
and according to his great mercy.

⁸ He said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely,"
so he became their Savior.

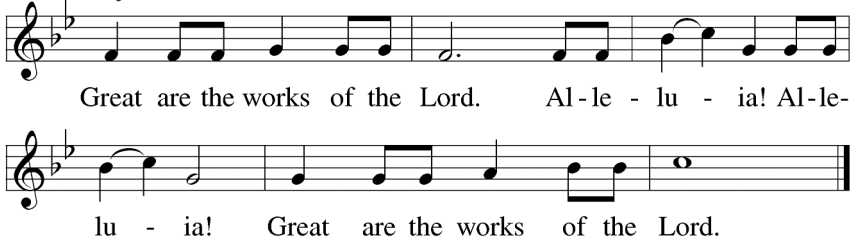
⁹ In all their anguish he felt anguish,
and the Angel of his Presence saved them.

In his love and in his pity he himself redeemed them,
and he took them up and carried them all the days of old.

Psalm of the Day • 2

Note: The Church sings Psalm 2 in services that emphasize the relationship of the Father and the Son.

Refrain



Psalm tone



Why do the nations | **conspire ***
and the peoples | plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers
gather together a- | **gainst the Lord ***
and against his A- | **nointed One.**

[Refrain]

The One enthroned in | **heaven laughs; ***
the Lord | **scoffs at them.**

Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, | **saying, ***
"I have installed my King on Zion, my | **holy hill."**

I will proclaim the decree | **of the Lord: ***
He said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have become your | **Father."**

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
And to the Holy | Spirit,

As it was in the be- | ginning, *
Is now, and will be forever. | A-men.

[Refrain]

Second Lesson • Galatians 4:4-7

| Redeemed by God's true Son, we can call God our "Father." |

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law,⁵ in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons.⁶ And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!"⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

Verse of the Day

Psalm 98:1

☐ *Alleluia. Sing to the LORD a new song, his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. Alleluia.*

-Please Note: There is a brief musical introduction before the congregation joins in singing the Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

-Stand-

Gospel • Matthew 2:13-23

God saves his Son from an early death. God's plan was to save the world
by having his Son die on the cross when the time had fully come.

After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him."

¹⁴ Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt.

¹⁵ He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. ¹⁷ Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸ A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more.

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

²¹ Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee.

²³ When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

P *The Gospel of our Lord.*



Hymn of the Day • “Let All Together Praise Our God”

[CW93 41]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Let all together praise our God
Before his highest throne;
Today he opens heav’n again
And gives us his own Son,
And gives us his own Son.</p> | <p>4. A wondrous change which he does make:
He takes our flesh and blood,
And he conceals for sinners’ sake
His majesty as God,
His majesty as God.</p> |
| <p>2. He leaves his heav’nly Father’s throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall.</p> | <p>5. He serves that I a lord may be—
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus’ love do more for me
To help me in my need,
To help me in my need?</p> |
| <p>3. He veils in flesh his pow’r divine
A servant’s form to take;
In want and lowliness must die
Who heav’n and earth did make,
Who heav’n and earth did make.</p> | <p>6. For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.</p> |

Sermon • Galatians 4:4-7

Paul’s View of Christmas

-Stand-

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

-Be seated-

THANKSGIVING

Offering

-Stand-

Prayer of the Church

P *Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures. You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servant-like heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh. You became true man so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.

O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior. You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Savior of the world.

God of our salvation, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ Child may not only be a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see him as the answer to life's problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

– Silent Prayer –

P *Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of your kingdom, and for the glory of your holy name.*

G Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A **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.**

-Be seated-

Hymn • “What Child Is This”

[CW93 67]

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet With anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary!</p> | <p>2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary!</p> |
|---|---|
- 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings Salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary!**

-Stand-

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P *Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



Blessing

☐ *Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.*

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace ☩.



-Be seated-

Closing Hymn • “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

[CW93 64]

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Let us all with gladsome voice
 Praise the God of heaven,
 Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,
 His own Son has given.</p> | <p>3. We are rich, for he was poor;
 Is not this a wonder?
 Therefore praise God evermore
 Here on earth and yonder.</p> |
| <p>2. To this vale of tears he comes,
 Here to serve in sadness,
 That with him in heav’n’s fair homes
 We may reign in gladness.</p> | <p>4. O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,
 Bless us and be near us.
 Grant us now a glad new year.
 Amen, Jesus hear us!</p> |

Acknowledgments:

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