



**"THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON,
WITH WHOM
I AM WELL
PLEASED."**

MATTHEW 3:17, ESV



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Trinity is a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (www.clclutheran.org)



January 3, 2026

The Second Sunday after Christmas

Serving Us Today

Organist: Kathy Conway

Greeter: Kevin Shaffer

We Enter God's House and Prepare for Worship

Pre-service Meditation: *Psalm 84*

Pre-service Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing me safely into this new year. As everyone and everything settles back into typical routine following Christmas, preserve me from letting my Christmas joy and love for Jesus settle into just a typical routine. Keep the Joy of Christ's birth alive in my heart and the light of His love burning in all that I think, say, and do. Amen.

Order of Worship (The *Lutheran Hymnal*, p. 15)

*When the congregation is asked to stand, please do so only if you are able.
You may remain seated if standing is difficult.*

Welcome to Worship

Opening Prayer

Hymn: 116—To the Name of Our Salvation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (sings): **Amen**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C (sings): Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C (sings): And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor & Congregation: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C (sings): Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 84:1-2, 4-5, 8,12

Pastor: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD;

Cong: my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

P: Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise!

C: Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

P: O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;

C: give ear, O God of Jacob!

P: O LORD of hosts,

C: blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Congregation Sings (TLH, p. 16ff)

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore.

Amen.

The Kyrie

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis

Pastor: Glory be to God on high:

Cong: And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, We glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takes away the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us. You who takes away the sin of the world, Receive our prayer. You who sits at the right hand of God the Father, Have mercy upon us. For You only are holy; You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, Are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C (sings): And with Your spirit.

P: Let us pray...

C (sings): Amen!



God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 3:4-17

John prepared the way for Jesus by exposing the people's sin, calling them to repentance, and baptizing

them. He always pointed the people's hearts to Jesus—the coming Savior. When Jesus came to be baptized it was not to forgive sins but to "fulfill all righteousness."

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of

God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and treasure it! Hallelujah!

C (sings): Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Scripture Lesson: Acts 8:26-39

C (sings): Glory be to You, O Lord!

Paul's closing words in his final letter to Timothy acknowledge the reality of his death which would come soon, but also the confidence Paul had even in the face of death. He also gave information, instruction, and counsel to Timothy—still serving the work of the gospel.

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south^[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

*"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.*

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

*Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."*

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went

down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

C (sings): Praise be to You, O Christ!



Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Hymn: To Jordan's River Came Our Lord (see insert)

The Sermon

Text: *Colossians 2:6-15*

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

The (Christmas) Gifts Just Keep Coming

- I. We have a Savior who is truly God
- II. We have been given “Christian Circumcision”
- III. We have the blessings of being connected to Christ

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation; and uphold me with Your free spirit. Amen.

Hymn: 751 – God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It

Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

Congregation (sings): And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation (sings): We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

Congregation (sings): It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father almighty and everlasting God...Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of Heaven we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

Congregation (sings):

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory;

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

P: 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;

Congregation (sings):

For Thine is the kingdom and the power

And the glory forever and ever. Amen.

P: Words of Institution...The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Congregation (sings): Amen.

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away
the sin of the world, Have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**



Distribution

Christ teaches us in His Word that He desires unity of faith and confession among those who commune together at the Lord's Table. For this reason, we ask that only those who have confessed their unity with us through communicant membership in our congregation or a sister congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) come to the Lord's Supper this morning. This scriptural practice we call "close communion" is not a judgment on your faith, but is an expression of our own. Visitors who may wish to learn more about communing with us in the future are invited to speak to the pastor at your convenience. We would also like to share this blessing with you.

Thanksgiving

Congregation (sings):

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
Depart in peace according to Your word,
For mine eyes have seen Your salvation:
Which You have prepared before the face of all people.
A Light to lighten the Gentiles
And the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
Forevermore. Amen.**

Benediction (Pastor)

C (sings): Amen! Amen! Amen!

Hymn: 124 — O Lord, Our Father, Thanks to Thee

Silent Prayer

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Welcome to Worship at Trinity! to all

who have gathered for worship this morning. We especially welcome guests and visitors—please sign our guest book in the north entry. We look forward to having you worship with us again!

Thank-offerings may be left in the offering plate in the back of the church or mailed to the church.



in the
HOSPITAL
and in our prayers



Hospitalized Last Week: Joyce Miller
(Holy Family, released)

This Week's Schedule

(If the Lord wills we shall do this or that)

Today

- 9:15 a.m. Bible Class (**Words w/ Big Meanings**: Providence & Justification)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service **Greeter**: Kevin Shaffer
- 11:30 a.m. Voters (Call) Meeting

Next Saturday (January 10)

- 9:15 a.m. Bible Class (**Words with Big Meanings**)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:30 a.m. Church Council & Trinity Ladies

Greeters: Dennis & Linda Lux

News & Notes

The Lord's Supper is being celebrated in the worship service this morning. Communicants please register in the north entry.

Call Meeting Today: The voters will meet following the service to extend calls for vacancy pastor and full-time pastor. An open congregation discussion precedes the voters meeting. Please continue to keep these matters in your prayers throughout the coming week and voters please plan to attend (open congregation discussion precedes the meeting).

You're Invited! The Gethsemane Seniors meet monthly and Trinity Seniors are invited to join them. The next meeting is on January 14 at 12:30 p.m. The meetings include lunch and fellowship and at times a program/entertainment. Talk to Pastor E. if you'd like more information.



News from around the Church of the Lutheran Confession

Call News: Mr. Peter Reim is considering the vacancy call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN / Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, is considering the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN / Pastor Joe Naumann of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, is considering the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

Des Moines, IA: Saturday, January 17, 10:30 a.m. at the Hampton Inn meeting room in Ankeny, Iowa (same location as the worship service in November. The group will be discussing what the next steps are. This is an exciting outreach effort—please keep these fellow Christians in your prayers.

Resignation: Pastor John Hein has resigned his position on the Board of Regents, effective January 1, 2026. We thank Pastor Hein for his sixteen years of faithful service as a member of the board, eleven of which he served as chairman. May he and his family continue to find comfort and strength in the strong and sure promises of our Lord's unchanging and perfect Word.