

Trinity Lutheran Church - Hammond, Wisconsin
Lessons and Carols for Christmas - December 28, 2025
Commemorating The Holy Innocents on the First Sunday of Christmas

Bulletin Sponsor: Lois Koosmann in celebration of granddaughter
Scarlett's 6th birthday today!

PRELUDE

Dave Roos

DIALOG

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty God, **you have filled us with the new light of the Word
Who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of faith shine in all we do;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING CAROL ELW #269 "Once in Royal David's City"

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above;
 and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

THE GREETING

To you who are being protected by the power and love of God through faith:
Rejoice! Grace and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord, **in days when uncertainty shadows our very thoughts of you, grant us peace. In moments when we question the wisdom of our actions, grant us light. When our souls tremble with the burden of justice, help us remember that our faith is built on the promise of your birth and on the way of life and peace through the cross. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5

CAROL ELW #279 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

- 3 How silently, how silently
 the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming;
 but, in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
 descend to us, we pray;
 cast out our sin, and enter in,
 be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 the great glad tidings tell;
 oh, come to us, abide with us,
 our Lord Immanuel!

SECOND READING Matthew 1:18-25

CAROL ELW #296 “What Child Is This”

- 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!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
 the cross be borne for me, for you;
 hail, hail the Word made flesh,
 the babe, the son of Mary!

- 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!

THIRD READING Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL WOV #646 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

- 1 We three kings of Orient are;
 bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 following yonder star.

Refrain

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
 star with royal beauty bright;
 westward leading, still proceeding,
 guide us to thy perfect light!**

- 2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
 gold I bring to crown him again;
 king forever, ceasing never,
 over us all to reign. **To Refrain**
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;
 incense owns a deity nigh;
 prayer and praising, gladly raising,
 worshipping God Most High. **To Refrain**
- 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
 breathes a life of gathering gloom;
 sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **To Refrain**
- 5 Glorious now behold him arise,
 King and God and Sacrifice;
 heav'n sings alleluia:
 alleluia the earth replies. **To Refrain**

FOURTH READING Matthew 2:13-23

PRAYER

Let us pray. We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. **Receive into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims. By your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

MEDITATION “Having a Heart for Innocents” Rev. Julie Brenden

CAROL ELW #253 “He Came Down”

- 1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

FIFTH READING Hebrews 2:10-18

CAROL WOV #642 “I Wonder As I Wander”

- 1 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord’n’ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

- 2 When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall
 with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
 and high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
 the promise of ages it did then recall.
- 3 If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
 a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
 or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
 he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King.
- 4 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
 how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
 for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I;
 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

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, 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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. Responses: 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.**

OFFERING AND CAROL

ELW #298, vs. 1-4

“The Bells of Christmas”

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.
- 2 This world, though wide and far outspread,
could scarcely find for you a bed.
Your cradle was a manger stall,
no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.
- 3 Now let us go with quiet mind,
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
to gaze on him who gladdens them,
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.
- 4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,
to keep our Christmas with our king,
until our song, from loving souls,
like rushing mighty water rolls!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory, **great are your wonders among us
and many are the 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING CAROL ELW #288 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

Thank you to all who helped with the worship today:

Dave Roos – Accompaniment; Lectors – Marti Peterson, Kathy Nusbaum, Jodi Hough, Kathy Jensen, and Ron Pratt; Greeters - Kerry & Marti Peterson; Ushers - Bill Jacobson & Kathy Jensen; Acolyte - Charley Gillis; Sound & Video - Ron Pratt.

Please note this opportunity: DISH with the BISH – established in 2025

Bishop Martin Halom is traveling around the synod and meeting people of the church in each of the seven conferences. The meeting closest to Trinity is scheduled for Sunday, January 11th at First Lutheran Church in New Richmond from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. This is a unique opportunity for people of all ages to come together, share a meal and a service project (TBD), and participate in a Q&A with Bishop Martin. Trinity members are asked to **RSVP to Pastor Julie by Sunday, January 4th** to get a count for the meal and activity.