

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 3, 2021**



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Glory to God in the highest,

P: and peace to God's people on earth.

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

P: Amen.

GATHERING SONG: "Drawn to the Light" John Ylvisaker

<https://johnylvisaker.bandcamp.com/track/drawn-to-the-light>

People who walk in darkness have sought a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost, we were drawn to the light of God.

CHORUS:

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.

How can we tell a heaven from hell if everyone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels and we're drawn to the light of God.

Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
bids us to come! Life has begun when we're drawn to the light of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

P: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
God of goodness and lovingkindness,

P: We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work but through Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

P: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SONG: "Light of the World" Group VBS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI302Av7vSI>

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and the glory of the LORD will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and rulers to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
²that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁰May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
¹¹May all kings bow down before him, (*continued on next page*)

and all the nations do him service.

¹²For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.

¹³He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become heirs with us, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of God’s power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that God has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²through faith in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”



⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

SERMON: “Home By Another Way”

Pastor Jerome Evavold

SONG: “*We Three Kings*” Rend Collective

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bb7_pd6-t_A

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.

OFFERING SONG: “*Light of the World*” Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLhaZIBSpo>

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray that everyone will receive the blessings of Epiphany, responding to each bid with the words “Hear our prayer.”

A brief silence.

For all the baptized, that even in hardship we grow deeper into the mystery of God, we pray: O God, shining with grace, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For believers in all the world’s religions, that God welcome also their devotion, we pray: O God, greater than the church, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For the earth, that each season provide sustenance for plants and animals, we pray: O God, preserver of creation, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For scientists, that they probe what is both beyond and within what we see, we pray: O God, keeper of all knowledge, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For the leaders of nations, that they strive for peace and justice, we pray: O God, monarch of all peoples, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For the Congress of the United States, that God grant it wisdom for its tasks, we pray: O God, guidance for government, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For all persons who have means, that they assist those who have little, we pray: O God, great in generosity, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For victims of injustice and prejudice, that their cries be heeded, we pray: O God, compassionate savior, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For children, that they be protected from harm, we pray: O God, loving parent, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For all who are suffering from the coronavirus, that they come to health and wholeness, we pray: O God, giver of life, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For those who have asked for our prayers, . . . , and for those we too often forget, that God meet their multitude of needs, we pray: O God, refuge of the downhearted, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

For each of us, that as if with a star God guide us throughout the journey of life, we pray: O God, light of holiness, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for all who have died in the faith, that at our end we join them in life with God: O God, goal of our days, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

That God will receive these prayers, for the sake of the divine infant before whom we kneel, we pray, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING OUR HOMES

L: We heard in Matthew's gospel that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. In the home, Christ is met with family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured and put into action. This Epiphany Sunday we bless our homes.

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on our homes, let us listen to the words of scripture. From Proverbs 23: 3-4 - May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

From John 1: 1-4, 14, 16 - 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, and the life was the light of all people. 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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above our main doors. The numbers change with each new year. The blessing includes three letters which stand for either the ancient Latin blessing (Christe mansionem benedicat) which means "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 + C M B + 21

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

21 and twenty-one years ago.

+ Christ, bless this house,

+ and remain with us throughout the new year.

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(You may choose to walk from room to room, blessing your house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.)

BENEDICTION

L: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless us this day + through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: “Go, My Children with My Blessing” Concordia Publishing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrnRkVcY8ME>

Go my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go my children with my blessing you are my own.

Go my children sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you , here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

DISMISSAL:

L: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Trinity’s Annual Meeting will be held as a Zoom meeting on January 31, 2021 at 11 a.m. Prior to the meeting, the 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Budget and Ballot will be e-mailed to those with e-mails. A hard copy will be mailed to anyone who requests one.

ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS: Application forms and information will be available on our website and Facebook after January 4, 2021.

REMINDER TO COUNCIL/TEAM MEMBERS: Please get your reports to Aine as soon as possible because of the early mailing date for the Annual Congregational Report.

AFTER THOUGHTS

January 3, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Truth beyond the Facts

There are many questions today about facts. Who do we trust to give us the facts? What sources and individuals are reliable? Social media can be a great tool for sharing, but it has also become a means of spreading misinformation, false beliefs, and bad advice. Many people today are suspicious of what some claim to be the facts.

Even if we have the right facts, we might not have something more important: the truth. Facts can be a partial representation of the truth. Facts might tell us that it is sunny and warm this morning, but the weather forecast might say thunderstorms are coming in the afternoon. The latter statement is truth. Truth is the larger reality that smaller facts don't capture, and sometimes contradict.

John tells us that Jesus is God's Word, full of grace and truth. In Jesus we get the full truth of God, not merely the facts. What are the facts we might see? We are all sinful and have strayed from God's just and loving ways. The world is a mess. Left to our own ways, we are surely lost. These are the facts, as if we woke up to a dangerous thunderstorm but don't know what the weather forecast is after that. Jesus is the fuller truth that in spite of the stormy mess of the world and our individual lives, God's grace is a gift to us in Christ. There is a blue sky and a safe calm that is ours through divine love.

Some of us live with messages that tell us we are not the right kind of person to receive God's grace because of our past mistakes, or ethnicity, or gender identity, or level of education, or poverty. The truth of Jesus Christ tells us we are children of God. "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace" (John 1:16). This is the truth that gives us life.

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