

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28, 2025 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE “Coventry Carol” P. Crisafulli, Rebecca Seng, flute

WELCOME

The assembly stands at the Pastor’s invitation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

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.

GATHERING SONG “Once in David’s Royal City” ELW 269



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav' n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Assisting Minister)*

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**

You may be seated as we hear the word of God.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 31:15-17

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷ there is hope for your future,

says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

RESPONSE “*Coventry Carol*” Traditional, Abbey Beck Snow, Soprano

SECOND READING REVELATION 21:1-7

A reading from Revelation

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation rises to welcome the gospel

ALLELUIA VERSE



All Sing Alleluia Verse

Cantor: “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”

All Repeat Alleluia Verse

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The gospel of the Lord.

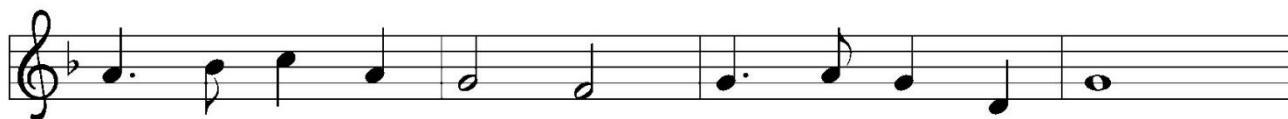
Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

HYMN OF THE DAY “*In the Bleak Midwinter*” ELW 294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

APOSTLE'S CREED

With one voice, in unity with the church catholic, let us confess our faith in the words of 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The following response will be used after each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

United with the great cloud of witnesses throughout the ages, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of encouragement, give strength to your church amid trial and change. Let those who suffer for the sake of the gospel entrust themselves to you because you are faithful. Bless ministries of support and comfort in this and every worshiping community. We pray for Trinity Lutheran Church of Millersburg and their pastor, Rev. Mary Hughes. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of heaven and earth, hear the groaning of creation. Where greed and neglect have destroyed ecosystems, habitats, and natural resources, reveal paths to equity and healing. Teach us anew how to care for our world with faithfulness and hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the journey, aid and protect refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and all who leave their homelands to seek safety and opportunity. Raise up leaders who model love and compassion for all people regardless of race, religion, or country of origin. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of weeping, listen to your people as they cry to you in lamentation. Show your mercy to those who suffer with chronic illness, those who wait for cures, and those who are dying. Heal the bodies and spirits of those who suffer, especially those on St. Peter's Prayer List (refer to those on the prayer list in the bulletin) and those for whom we pray aloud or in the silence of our heart. (Slight Pause). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, comfort families in times of loss. Accompany grieving parents whose children have died. Dwell with parents who have experienced miscarriage or pregnancy loss. Embrace all who have given a child to foster care or adoption. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the company of your saints we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your eternal mercy and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to offer your sign of Christ's peace to those gathered around you today.

The assembly may be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The offering gathered at the beginning of the service for the mission of the church including the care of those in need is presented to the altar. See the back of the bulletin for online giving options.

OFFERTORY “Holy, Child, Within the Manager” M Haugen

Abbey Beck Snow, Soprano

OFFERING PRAYER (*Assisting Minister*)

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(tune: "*O Mornings Star, How Fair and Bright!*" ELW 308)

“Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn, A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of Glory! His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim and Sing redemption’s story!
My soul, extol. God’s great favor; Bless God ever for salvation;
Give God praise and adoration.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
 Creator of all and Source of life,
 at the birth of time
 your word brought light into the world.
In the fullness of time,
 you sent your Word, born of Mary,
 to shine in our darkness
 and to make us your daughters and sons.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
 his birth and life among us,
 his death and resurrection,
 we await his coming again
 when all things will be restored in him.
By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
 that, held and nourished by you,
 we may live as your children,
 shining with the light of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION SONG “*What Child Is This*” ELW 296 vs 2 only



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

COMMUNION HYMN “*From Heaven Above*” ELW 268 vs 1-3, 12-14

1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
 2 “To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 “This is the Christ, God’s Son most high, who hears your
Insert additional stanzas as desired.
 12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
 13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
 14 “Glo - ry to God in high - est heav’n, who un - to
 news to ev - ’ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
 sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior
 bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
 long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
 us the Son has giv’n.” With an - gels sing in pi - ous
 bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 be and from all sin will set you free.”
 heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
 tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
 mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4 “The blessing that the Father planned
the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share.” | 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away;
how can our thanks such live repay? |
| 5 “These are the signs that you will see
to let you know that it is he:
in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
the child who all the earth upholds.” | 9 O Lord, you have created all!
How did you come to be so small,
to sweetly sleep in manger-bed
where lowing cattle lately fed? |
| 6 Now let us all with joyful cheer
go with the shepherds and draw near
to see this wondrous gift of God,
the blessed child to us bestowed. | 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
and set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you. |
| 7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there!
What lies within that manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one?
The baby Jesus, God’s dear Son. | 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff
you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king so rich and great
to be enthroned in humble state. |

The assembly may remain seated.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Assisting Minister)*

Let us pray.

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

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands to receive the blessing.

BLESSING

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

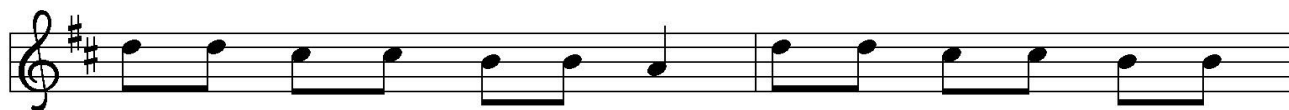
SENDING SONG “Cold December Flies Away” ELW 299



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

DISMISSAL

Go in Peace...

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Cold December Flies Away” C. Ore

Materials reproduced from Sundays and Seasons Copyright 2019@ Augsburg Fortress Publishers .

All music used with permission CCLI license # 1000417 Expiration 6/30/2026;

One License #A-741564, Expiration 05/22/26

