

Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA

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January 3, 2021

Second Sunday of Christmas

9:00 a.m. Worship – Live streaming on Facebook and YouTube

**Our worship service will also be recorded
and will be available on our website www.tlcsparta.org**



Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Psalm 147.12-20

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.

Page 1

** Symbol indicates a time when the congregation stands*

God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.
God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?
The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.
The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High* #289

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Gospel: John 1.1-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Sermon

Hymn: *Of the Father's Love, Begotten verses 1, 2, 5*

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and
evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and
evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.

Prayers

As we near the conclusion of the Christmas season, let us pray for God's mercy
throughout this new year, responding to each petition with "Save your people, O LORD."
A brief silence.

All through 2021, O redeeming God, bless your church. Renew the strength of bishops,
pastors, deacons, musicians, and all servants of the church. Assist congregations in
paying their bills. Give us hope in your goodness and joy in your salvation.
A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

All through 2021, O bountiful God, bless your earth. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in
the balance you intend, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to
rainforests. Reveal new ways for us to live in harmony with your creation.
A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

All through 2021, O ruling God, bless the nations of the world. Bring peace and justice where there is violence and abuse of power. Inspire those in authority to serve the common good, and preserve stability in the United States. Protect those who risk danger for the sake of others.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

All through 2021, O reconciling God, lead us out of patterns of prejudice and into reconciliation with one another. Help us to honor all persons as members of your family and our siblings under your care.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

All through 2021, O loving God, give us wisdom in our resolutions and strength during hardships. Console those who are afraid or lonely. Give jobs to the unemployed. Direct us toward the solution to the world's problems, to feed the hungry, to house the homeless, to serve the neighbor.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

All through 2021, O compassionate God, attend to those who suffer. End the pandemic. Restore health care workers. Heal the sick. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Visit those for whom we pray:

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

All through 2021, O precious God, pour over us and into us your Holy Spirit, that we may live as your own, and accept the silent petitions we offer.

A longer period of silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

At this beginning of 2021, O eternal God, hear our praise for all those whose lives proclaimed your praise, especially those who died during 2020. At our end, bring us with them into the garden watered by your mercy.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God. **Save your people, O LORD.**

O God, you are the Beginning and the Ending of all. Receive our prayers for the sake of one who made known to us the mystery of your will, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

**Offering
Special Music**

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning, you dreamed of a world that would be good—of mountains, valleys, and oceans; of the changing of seasons; of laughter and the magic of music; of a creation united with you in love. You dreamed of this world, O God, and you formed it into being.

And when we, who bear your image in this world, turned away from you, you did not turn from us. Rather, in love, you held fast to your dream—working, shaping, and suffering to make it reality.

And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place.

Ever-present God, your prophets dreamed of the day when you would tear the heavens and come down, and in Christ, their dream became reality.

Come down now, we pray, upon this bread and cup and make them be for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ;

Who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup and gave it to them saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Creating God, send your Spirit upon your people that we too may dream your dream—of the lion lying down with the lamb, of justice rolling like a mighty river, of swords beaten into plowshares, of prisoners set free. May we dream your dream, and then, as we wake, empower us with your Spirit, and work to make your dream reality.

Form us with your dream, everlasting God, we pray. **Amen.**

Bread of Life, be light in our darkness. **Christ is the Light of the world.**
Cup of Salvation, be strength for our journey. **Christ is the Hope of the world.**
The gifts of God **for the people of God.**

Let us come for all things are now ready.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self
with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your
promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing

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 you this
day † through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Hymn: *The Bells of Christmas, verses 1, 2, 6*

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.

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.

Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

Sending

Go in peace, share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God**