

Triune Lutheran Church



Second Sunday of Christmas



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Lord, Jesus
Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh,
Breath of heaven.

Amen!

Let us confess our sin before God and one another, trusting
in God's endless mercy and love.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing/sitting. Silence
is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,
we confess that we are not perfect.
We have said and done things we regret.
We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.
We have resisted your call
to be your voice in the world.
Forgive us, loving God.
Give us your righteousness,
the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world. **Amen!**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“ ” ELW

***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 living Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

John 1:10-18

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord!

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.

**This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“ ”

ELW

***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**

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you make your presence known to the church in every land. Give to us a desire and will to support the diverse work of the whole church throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous Creator, in you all things came into being, and without you not one thing exists. We praise you for the snow and rain that water the earth. Move us to care for the well-being of the work of your hands. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Savior of the nations, you gather in your care people of every age and ability, from lands near and far. Inspire the leaders of the nations to work for peace within their countries and in all the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving God, provide for your people who begin this new year in need. Grant shelter to those who are homeless, comfort to all who are lonely, and a strong sense of your presence to those who are sick, including Bev & Bill Deitrick, Tim Mize, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Jenny Adams, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, John & Jean Kurtz, Mary Phillips, Courtney Spencer, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Word of truth, your good news of salvation is proclaimed among us. Bless all who proclaim your word of new life in our surrounding community and beyond. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious One, your light shines in the darkness and it is not overcome. We thank you for the witnesses who have testified to your light. May their lives continue to inspire us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your gracious hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of our newborn Savior be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

*OFFERING HYMN

“What Feast of Love”

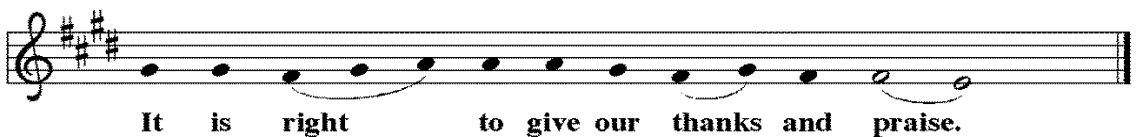
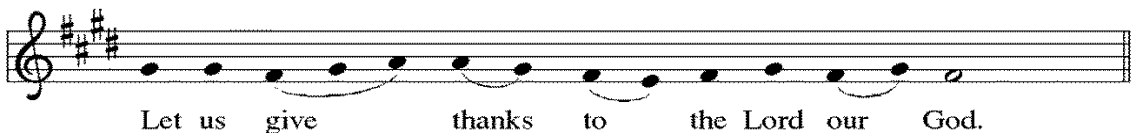
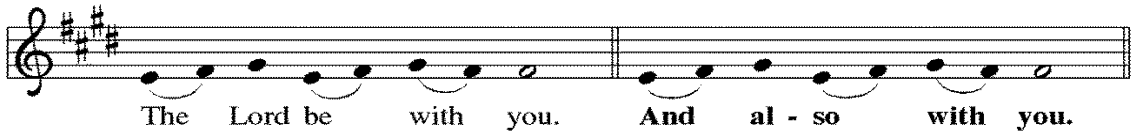
ELW 487, Vs. 1 & 3

*OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
you have given us life, this community,
and these gifts of the earth
that become the meal of your grace.
Move in our hearts,
that we might use your gifts
to bring hope and blessing wherever we go,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen!

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

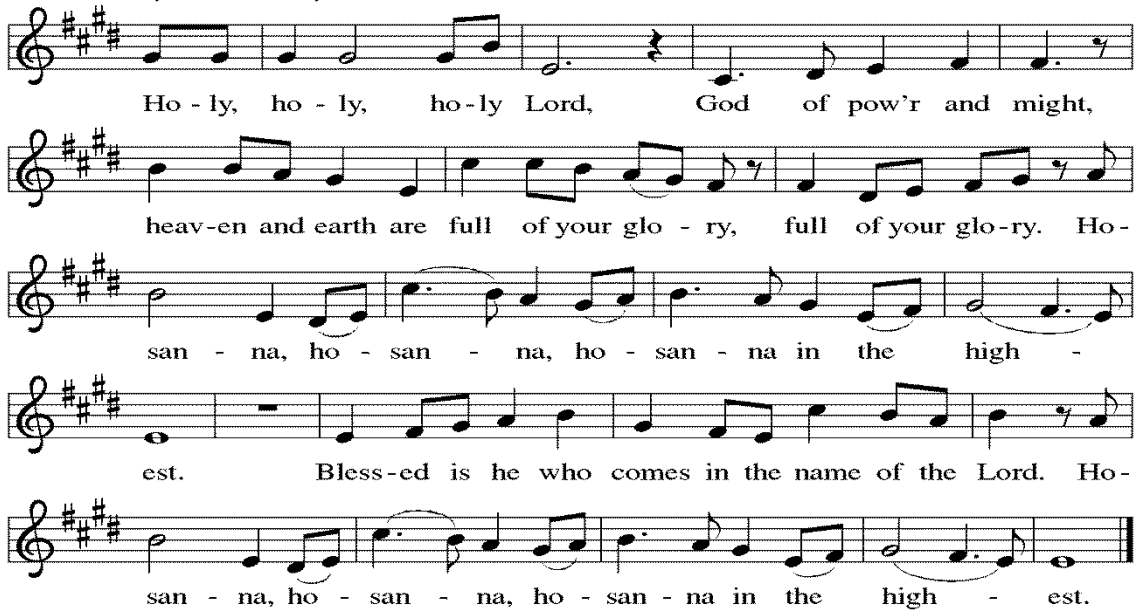


*PREFACE

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***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 you, as the Holy 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 the Messiah.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever. **Amen!**

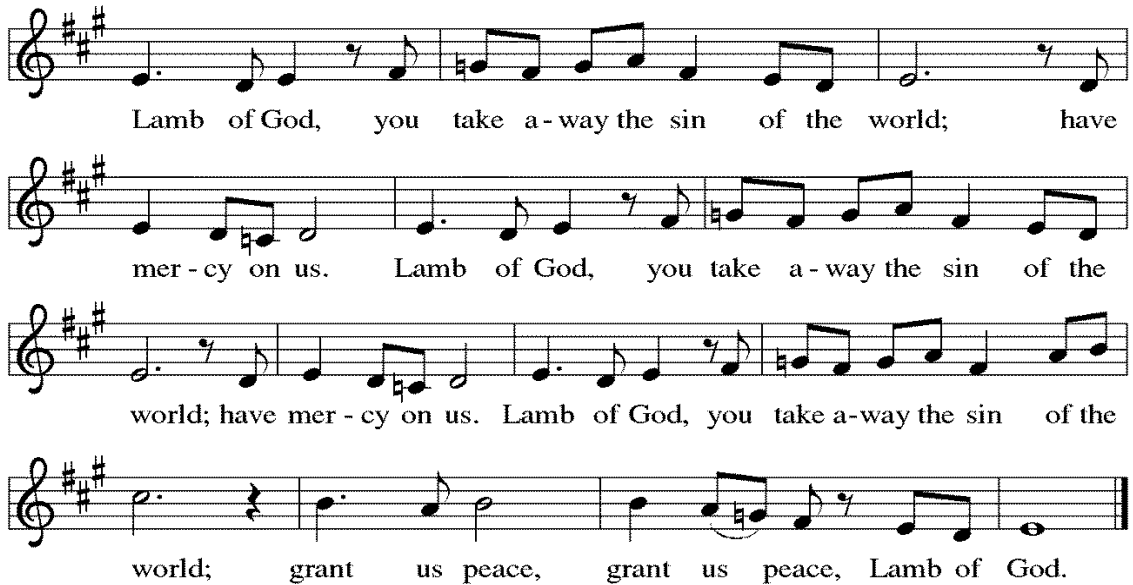
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

Love has come: God's love for all people.
Come and eat, for Christ invites you just as you are!
Thanks be to God!

*COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all.
Amen!

***BLESSING**

Grace from God's own heart,
peace from the ☩ Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life
be blessings for you today and forever.

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“”

ELW

***DISMISSAL**

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere!
Thanks be to God!

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000689. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Ministers: **All People**
Pastor: **Brad Ross**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Worship Leader: **Dale Kirk**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**

Bringing Together the Family



For those of us who are blessed to live relatively close to families we love and who love us, these past couple of months have been a time of getting together more than usual. Now that I live on the same continent as my parents and in-laws (we moved back from Northern Africa last year) my children are making up for lost time in seeing their grandparents. But January has come with, I suspect, a decreasing desire to travel anywhere but directly south to warmer climates. Most of us probably aren't making plans to get together with family for a while. Now is the perfect time for the lectionary readings to remind us that one of God's principle actions is in creating and bringing together a new human family.

This week's passage from Ephesians speaks repeatedly about how God has planned to adopt us into God's holy family. We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4) and destined for adoption (5). God planned to gather up all things (that includes us!) to Godself in the fullness of time (10). Indeed, God's ancient plan to adopt humans into God's holy family is so complete and thought out that God even prepared an inheritance for us! This inheritance is redemption (14) that leads to life (11-12).

Imagine what this would look like in human terms. Someone plans to adopt a child before she is even born, readies an inheritance and prepares everything. When the opportunity finally comes to make the adoption legal, the child's future life is already completely prepared. That would take an amazing amount of love, foresight, patience, planning and work. I think that's exactly how we should understand God's relationship to us as expressed through Jesus—full of love, foresight, patience, planning and salvific work.

The work of God's family, then, is to be gathered together from all the corners of the world, to love God and each other as brother and sister, united in one adoptive family.

In the Gospel of John's poetic and mystical prologue, the full picture of our adoption into God's holy family is laid out. Even though the world was created through him, much of the world rejected Jesus. But, for absolutely any who would receive him and believe in his name (Jesus' name means "God saves"), he gave the power to become children of God (John 1:12). Just to be clear and drive the point home, the Gospel writer points out that the adoption of people into God's family is just that: adoption, not natural birth. We become God's children not by blood relations or any sort of fleshy encounter, but by the will of God (13). We aren't part of God's family by accident—we were purposefully chosen to become beloved children.

What does that mean? God, through the prophet Jeremiah, describes a time when God will join the people together again. God's family will be pulled together from all corners of the world (Jeremiah 31:8). People of all physical abilities will be included (8) and all the pathways in God's land will be accessible to all (9). God will prepare the way for all specifically because God self-identifies as Father (9). This is a role that God has chosen. At least in this passage, it is how God introduces Godself. I'm struck by this, mostly because of how infrequently I introduce myself first by saying that I am a dad. It's a large part of my identity that I am the one who loves, provides for and takes care of my boys. But it's not foremost in my mind about who I am. But we know God as God the Father/Parent because that's who God is and chooses to be to us.

God's whole mode of interacting with us humans is as a hopeful adoptive parent, who wants us to choose to be loved, taken care of and identified with our Heavenly Parent. God has chosen each and every one of us before the foundation of the world, to be called as God's child, to be provided an inheritance of redemption and life. God is so pleased that we are God's children. The work of God's family, then, is to be gathered together

from all the corners of the world, to love God and each other as brother and sister, united in one adoptive family.



Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.

Cory Driver's Lectionary Blog and other resources for the faith journey available at LivingLutheran.org.

Sisters & brothers in Christ of Triune,

*Thank
you!*

I just wanted to express my sincere appreciation by your overwhelming generosity, yet again, with the humbling Christmas gift you gave to me. Saying, "Thank you!" doesn't seem to satisfy the level of your kindness, but I am forever grateful to be part of this joint ministry we call Triune, and I look forward to another year of working together in bringing the Greatest News to life in whatever way we can. Thank you!

*In Christ,
Pastor Brad*