

Triune Lutheran Church



Joseph, Guardian of Jesus



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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



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



- You are invited to speak the **bold print**, as well as sing along with the psalm and hymns, which you will find in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal in front of you in the pews.
- The portions marked with * are times when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- There will not be a separate time for an offering to be collected during worship. If you wish to do so today, you may place your offering in the offering plate at the back.
- We believe the body and blood of Christ is meant for everyone, regardless of your church affiliation, and so feel free to participate, if you feel so moved. We will celebrate Communion through intinction. You will be invited to come up the side aisle to the pastor who will have wafers (gluten-free available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the wafer in your hand as you go to the worship assistant with the chalice of wine. You are invited to dip your wafer into the chalice before consuming the wafer and returning to your seat through the center aisle.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available in the pew to learn more about us.
- Bathrooms are available in the hallway.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

We take time to recognize our shortcomings while clinging to the grace of God that surpasses our understanding.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen!

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our dependence on God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults.

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your loving
word;**

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of new life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Sing with All the Saints in Glory”

ELW 426

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, from the family of your servant David, you raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your Son, and the husband of his blessed mother. Give us grace to imitate his dedication and humility, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16

⁴That same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:
⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 89:1-8

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your
faithfulness.



²For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

³“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.’”

⁵The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, and your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;

⁶for who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?

Who is like the LORD among the gods?—

^{7a}God who is feared in the council of the holy ones, great and awesome to those all around.

⁸Who is like you, LORD God of hosts?

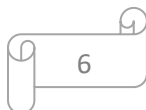
O mighty LORD, your faithfulness is all around you.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:13-18

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

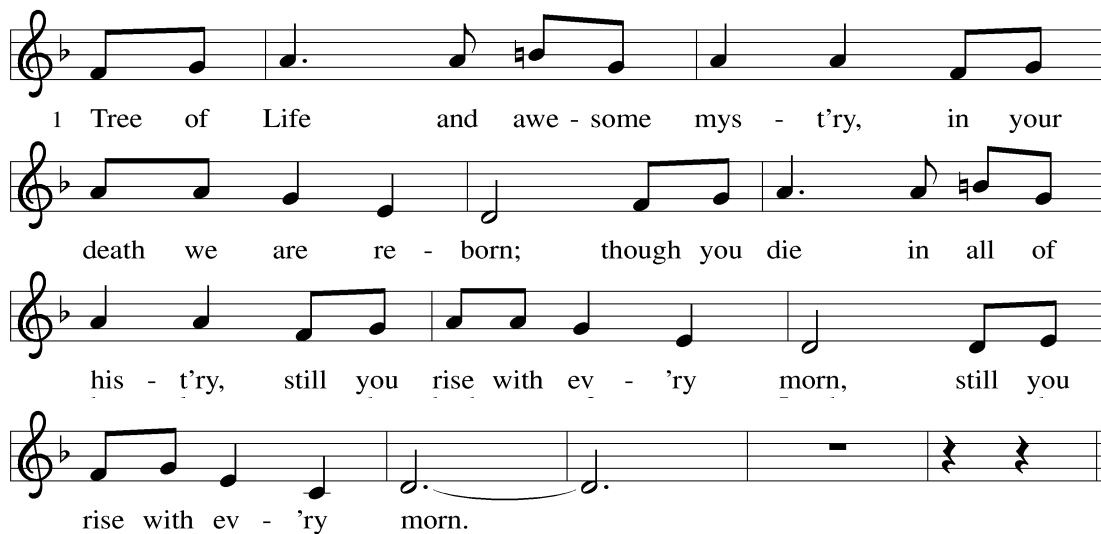
¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to



those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.”

Word of God, word of life!
Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
death we are re - born; though you die in all of
his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
rise with ev - 'ry morn.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

(last line sung twice)

***GOSPEL**

Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

The Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹⁶Jacob [was] the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ^{24a}When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“By All Your Saints”

see next page



By All Your Saints

Joseph, Guardian of Jesus



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 We sing our praise for Jo - seph, your guard - ian, dear - est Lord,
3 Give praise to God Al - might - y, and wor - ship God the Son,



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!
who, list'n - ing to the an - gel, once saved you from the sword.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown
In tem - ple, home, and work - shop, he led you, honed your skill.
till all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,



and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.
So teach us, Christ our broth - er, to do our Fa - ther's will.
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.; hymnal version, st. 2

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

Text st. 2 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

***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**

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

A brief silence.

Universal God, assure us the promise of your grace for all. Establish your steadfast love in the hearts of our Triune family, and give us courage to live for the good of others. Bless those whose handiwork builds up the ministry of the church near and far away. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the raging sea and surging waves, heaven and earth praise your wonders. Continue to look upon creation with tenderness and mercy. Provide clean water and fertile soil. Replenish forests and repair damaged ecosystems. Set us as faithful caretakers of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reign over all the rulers of the earth. Give nations rest from their enemies and direct leaders in pathways of love and truth. Overcome the desire for greed or vengeance. Make justice and righteousness the foundation of our common life. Watch over those serving in the military and as first responders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and healing to all who face uncertainty. Enfold with your love those who lie awake at night because of unresolved pain, persistent anxiety, or care for the needs of others. Give hope to the sick with your mercy, including Arlene Dress, Niki Grigsby, John Kurtz, Dan & Jill Maldovan, Annie Slaughter, Mardell Weiss, Clara Wilcox, and all those we name in our hearts now...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Like Joseph, David, and Abraham before us, bless those called to serve as parents and father figures. Strengthen relationships between children and trusted adults. Console those who hope for the birth of children, for meaningful relationships, or for unconditional love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Praise to you for your saints who are now at rest. Assemble your holy ones around your throne, to rejoice forever in your name. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

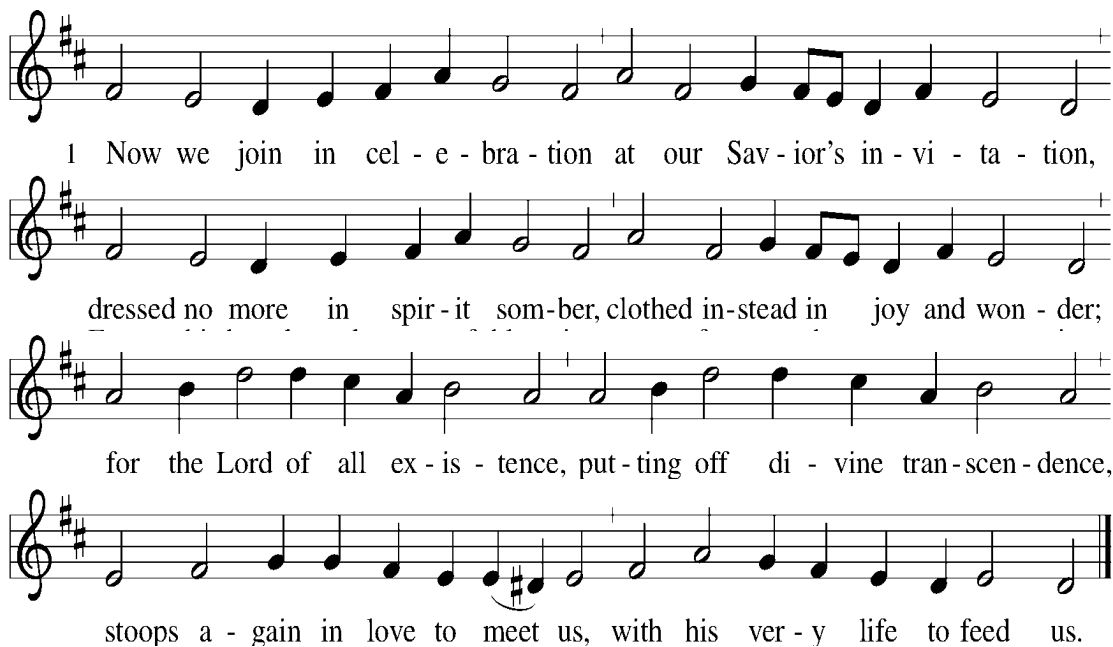
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

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, loving and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to renew their hearts
and prepare with joy for the victory of the tomb,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you!

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await your fulfilled salvation for all this thirsty world.

Holy Spirit, pour out your strength on this holy food,
and on all gathered for this feast throughout the world:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

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

Receive the gift of Christ for us all: life in abundance!
Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and respond in the world with your boundless love.
Amen!

*BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey and forevermore!
Amen!

*SENDING HYMN

“Give Thanks for Saints”

ELW 428

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love!
Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: **All People**
Presiding Minister: **Pastor Brad Ross**
Worship Assistant: **Emily Zvosec**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**



Joseph: A Model of Faith, Character, and Fatherhood

"We don't hear a single word from him, and he only shows up in 16 verses in the New Testament," the Rev. Adam Hamilton says of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. "Yet his impact on our faith, on Christ, is profound."

Hamilton, pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, is the author of *Faithful: Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph*.

"His is a beautiful and moving story," Hamilton continues in a recorded conversation for United Methodist Communications' *Get Your Spirit in Shape*. "Often we go right to Mary, we go right to the Christ child, but we miss out on this man who likely formed and shaped much of Jesus' self-understanding, his understanding of God and what God is like."

What we know

The Bible gives little information about this important figure in Jesus' early life.

Matthew tells us Joseph's father's name was Jacob (1:16), a detail the gospel writer may include to call to mind another Joseph, the dream-interpreting son of Jacob we read about in Genesis. God used that Joseph to save the people of Israel during a famine (see Genesis 37-50), and Mary's betrothed to parent the one who saves us all.

The only other thing we know is that Joseph was a carpenter (see Matthew 13:54-56).

Carpenters "probably weren't building houses," Hamilton explains. "They were built primarily of stone or mud brick." Instead, Joseph likely made yokes for oxen, household and farming tools, doors for homes, and furniture.

Joseph probably taught Jesus the craft (see Mark 6:3). His family may have passed the skills of the trade from father to son for generations.

In many ways, Joseph was ordinary, like many of the men of his day. "At the same time," Hamilton clarifies, "he represents some of the highest ideals."

Character

When Mary informs Joseph that she will give birth to a son, Joseph has a challenging decision to make.

"In this part of the story," Hamilton teaches, "this isn't good news for him. He feels disappointed, hurt, angry." Joseph chooses, however, not to act on those emotions.

"Even while he's stewing on this," Hamilton continues, "he has compassionate empathy for her and tries to find a way to call off the engagement and take the blame himself." His decision "to call off their engagement quietly" (Matthew 1:19 CEB), is an act of sacrificial love.

Then, like his ancestral namesake, Joseph has a dream. An angel tells him to marry Mary and to raise the child as his own. "When Joseph woke up," the Bible tells us, "he did just as an angel from God commanded" (Matthew 1:24 CEB).

Faith

After this vision, things don't suddenly fall into place. There are several difficult journeys ahead.

Due to a census, Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem during the ninth month of her pregnancy. The trip may have been as long as ten days by foot, with possible assistance from a donkey for Mary.

After Jesus' birth, when King Herod decrees to have every child Jesus' age killed, another journey is necessary. In a second dream, an angel instructs Joseph to escape with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. The young family flees a tyrannical ruler to live as refugees, similar to many today.

After living in Egypt for as long as three years, Joseph receives two more dreams. One tells him when it is safe to return, and the other directs him to settle in Nazareth, Mary's hometown. There they will raise and help shape the young Jesus.

Fatherhood

The Bible doesn't offer details about Joseph's relationship with Jesus, but it is easy to imagine Joseph having a profound affect upon him. Whether great or flawed, our dads help form us into the people we become.

In *Faithful*, Adam Hamilton ponders how Joseph's character may have shaped Jesus. When Jesus tells the story of the prodigal son and forgiving father (Luke 15:11-32), "had Jesus seen this kind of love and forgiveness by Joseph?" he wonders. When he taught the disciples that humble service is true greatness, "might he have been describing what he had seen in his carpenter father every single day?" (*Faithful* 30-31).

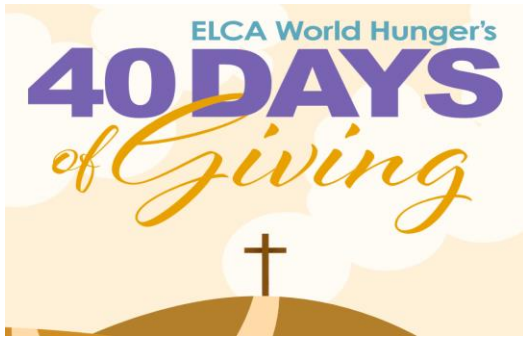
Joseph's example of raising Jesus teaches us to care for the children in our lives. "Not every man is a father," Hamilton adds, "but every man has an opportunity to affect other children."

Look what God can do

In our telling of the Christmas story, Joseph often has a background role. He is a non-speaking character, the quiet, unassuming man standing by the manger in our nativity sets. Yet, his role is significant. In Joseph, we see some of the highest ideals of character, fatherhood, grace, love, mercy, and faith.

"It's a beautiful story that happens just exactly the right way," Hamilton explains, "but it was hard to see that at the time. I think that's true in our lives. We take journeys we don't want to take. Then, when we look back, we go, 'Wow! Look how God used that! Look what God did in the journey!'"

- *Joe Lovino, Director of Member Communications of the United Methodist Church*



As we restart our quarterly ministry support of organizations both locally and worldwide, we first focus on one of our wider church's most pivotal ministries, ELCA World Hunger. In the coming weeks of Lent, we will share a story of the impacts made both within this country and beyond. We give thanks to God for the sacred opportunity to be part of "God's Work. Our Hands." (the motto of the ELCA).

In Washington, D.C., the Beloved Community Incubator is based on the idea of investing in people and in the Logan Circle neighborhood. The project began with a listening campaign by Luther Place Memorial Church with support from ELCA World Hunger. In this campaign, residents of the community expressed their desire for cooperatives that would allow them to use their skills and talents to build wealth and income that would stay in the community.

The first cooperative incubated by Luther Place was Dulce Hogar, a cooperative of women who provide cleaning services for homes and businesses. Together, the women learned how to run a business, how to pursue just employment and how to develop their own skills as leaders. As one participant describes it: "The vision of the cooperative is that all eight of us are well-paid and well-trained, and that we get to invest money in our families and in our community."

The members of the cooperative were even paid for the time they spent in meetings and trainings. They learned together that their time and labor had value that far exceeded the wages they had been offered before. And now, with an investment in them, they will be able to invest in others.

Projects such as the Beloved Community Incubator offer a counter-witness to the policies and practices of disinvestment that have created communities with high rates of poverty and food insecurity across the United States. These policies and practices are rooted in the misperception that some communities are worth investing in and others are not. But the residents of Logan Circle know that, despite the challenges they face, their community is worth the investment, and a better future is worth pursuing. With your support, ELCA World Hunger can continue to accompany communities such as this one.

OFFERING: Make your check payable to Triune and write "ELCA World Hunger" on your check's memo line.

MAIL: Make check payable to "ELCA World Hunger" and send to ELCA, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

ONLINE: ELCA.org/40Days

PHONE: 800-638-3522