



Sunday, December 29 at 10am

Triumphant Lutheran Church

We grow in Christ to serve others.

First Sunday of Christmas

10am

December 29, 2024

[P] Pastor [AM] Assisting Minister [R] Reader [C] Congregation ELW - Worship

PRELUDE

GATHERING CAROL

“Once in Royal David’s City” ELW hymn 269

OPENING DIALOG

[AM] Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.

[C] **Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.**

[AM] Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

[C] **Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!**

[AM] Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.

[C] **Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.**

THE GREETING

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

[C] **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the Knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

[C] **Amen.**



LESSON 1 – THE BIRTH OF JESUS

READING: Luke 2:1-7

Pew Bible, NT page 44

[R] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

LUTHER’S REFLECTIONS

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. . . . What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! . . . Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. . . . You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair. Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this

gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, p. 33)

CAROL

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

ELW hymn 276



LESSON 2 – THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

READING: Luke 2:8-16

Pew Bible, NT page 44

[R] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. . . . This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, "Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?" I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: "Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition." But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of man. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why does he do such preposterous things? He puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, "Could not God have saved the world some other way?" (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, p. 36, 40)

CAROL

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW hymn 282



LESSON 3 – HEROD AND THE WISE MEN

READING: Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible, NT page 1

[R] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in

the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king! If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. . . . Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and mayflowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word.

But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning. At their report, Herod the king "was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? *He* had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. . . . Now Herod had a crafty plan. "The Jews," thought he, "will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape." So he called the scribes to him and said, "Where is Christ to be born?" Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 50-52)

CAROL

"The First Noel"

ELW hymn 300



LESSON 4 – THE WORD MADE FLESH

READING: John 1:1-5, 14-18

Pew Bible, NT page 70

[R] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: "*Unto us* a child is born, *unto us* a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. . . . Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault. (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*, pp. 33, 16)

APOSTLES' CREED

[AM] Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**[C] 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 PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After each petition: [AM] Lord in your mercy [C] **Hear our prayer.**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

GATHERING OF GIFTS AND SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his son.
And now, let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich.
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.

OFFERING PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

ELW page 108

THE 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

LAMB OF GOD Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. ELW page 154
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace,--- grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN “Away in a Manger”ELW hymn 278

COMMUNION HYMN “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”ELW hymn 275

COMMUNION HYMN “Love Has Come”ELW hymn 292

PRAYER

[AM] Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

[C] Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”ELW hymn 290

DISMISSAL [AM] We grow in Christ to serve others! [C] Thanks be to God.

Pastor.....	Rev. Aaron Richter	Organist	Carol Snyder
Music Director	Carol Snyder	Assisting Minister	Rose-Marie Smith
Choir Director	Feliziti Landin	Readers	Gordon Hengst, Becky Sonnen, Rose-Marie Smith, Mary Langenes