

# CHRISTMAS DAY



**December 25, 2021**  
**10 a.m.**



## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

If you are a guest with us today, we are so glad you are here! We invite you to fill out a yellow card from the pew rack and put it in the offering plate during worship. You will find all of the words in the worship service projected at the front of the church or in this bulletin.

If you have something you would like us to pray about this week, you can write it on the back of the yellow card. Our staff and prayer team will pray for the requests during the week. If you so choose, we will post your request online at our prayer wall as well.

First Trinity is a Bible-based church. We believe God's Word is the sole authority for this life. We are imperfect people loving imperfect people. Our prayer for you today is that you would connect to God and grow closer and closer to Him each day.

## **SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**

We are currently in the season of Christmas. White paraments remind us of purity and completeness. Christ came to earth blameless, born to be the perfect sacrifice. White is the best festive color, and we will see it again for Epiphany on January 8-9.

To participate in this service, just follow along in this service folder. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include your participation. We are not here to be an audience; we are here to speak and sing the Word of God to each other. Parts marked "Leader" are spoken by the pastor or other worship leaders, and parts marked "People" are spoken by the congregation. Congregational parts are also printed in bold. It looks like this:

Leader Spoken by a worship leader.

**People Spoken by the congregation.**

To help you understand the different parts of worship today, we've provided several side notes throughout the service folder. Read the notes to discover some of the meaning behind the words and parts of the service. You will find a deeper appreciation for the rich symbolism and spiritual meaning behind Lutheran worship.

## **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through Your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## PRELUDE

**WELCOME** *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

*(Stand)*

### **OPENING HYMN** *Joy to the World* *Hymnal 387*

*Verse 1*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

*Verse 2*

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Verse 3*

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

*Verse 4*

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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## INVOCATION

**Leader** This is the day the Lord has made.

**People** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.** *Psalm 118:24*

**Leader** We gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People** **Amen.**

**Leader** It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us." *Isaiah 25:9a*

**People** **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.** *Isaiah 9:6a*

**Leader** "This is the LORD; we have waited for Him." *Isaiah 25:9b*

**People** **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.** *Isaiah 9:6a*

**Leader** "Let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation." *Isaiah 25:9c*

**People** **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.** *Isaiah 9:6a*

## CONFESSION

**Leader** A child was born for us so that we might be forgiven of all our sin. Let us then confess our sin to God.

**People** **Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your unfailing love. Because of Your great compassion, blot out the stain of our sins. Wash us clean from our guilt. Purify us from our sin. For we recognize our rebellion; it haunts us day and night. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.** *Psalm 51:1-2, 12 (silence for personal confession)*

## ABSOLUTION

**Leader** Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. *Psalm 30:4-5* Christ has come and forgiven all our sins. He has restored the joy of His salvation.

**People** **Amen. Praise to You O Christ, Child born to save us!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Hymnal 380

*Antiphon*

Gloria in excelsis deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis

*Verse 1*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

*Verse 2*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel!

*Verse 3*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

*Text: Public domain*

*The antiphon translates to "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men of good will".*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to You, O Christ, Child born to save us!**

*(Sit)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministries*

**MESSAGE HYMN** *We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth* *Hymnal 382, verses 1-3, 6*

*Verse 1*

We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;  
Clothed in flesh You came to earth.  
The virgin bears a sinless boy  
And all the angels sing for joy.  
Alleluia!

*Verse 2*

Now in the manger we may see  
God's Son from eternity,  
The gift from God's eternal throne  
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.  
Alleluia!

*Verse 3*

The virgin Mary's lullaby  
Calms the infant Lord Most High.  
Upon her lap content is He  
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.  
Alleluia!

*Verse 6*

In poverty He came to earth  
Showing mercy by His birth;  
He makes us rich in heav'nly ways  
As we, like angels, sing His praise.  
Alleluia!

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## **MESSAGE *God's Great Joy*** *Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr.*

*(Stand)*

### **CHRISTMAS CREED**

**People** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by the shepherds, and adored by the wise men; who lived to suffer, die, and rise again to free me from sin, death, and the power of the devil.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and by whose work in my heart I am led to lay before the feet of Christ the treasures of my love and live under Him as my King both now and forevermore. Amen.**

*We use this creed on Christmas Eve and the 12 days of Christmas. It retains the same structure as the Apostles' Creed, confessing Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--but does so with an emphasis on Christ's sending (Father), birth, death, and resurrection (Son), and Kingship (Holy Spirit).*

### **PRAYER**

**Leader** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

**Leader** Lord, in Your Mercy

**People** Hear our prayer.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**People** 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. 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.

*(Sit)*

## OFFERING INVITATION

*We invite you to make an eternal difference in our world by giving to LeadaChild. They are an independent Lutheran Mission Agency dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus' love to children through Christian education in third world countries. Donations provide scholarships, school registration, and supplies for children so that they can attend Lutheran schools and after school programs.*

**Please use FTGives.com and choose "Special Christmas Offering", or mark your check/envelope "LeadaChild" to direct your gift.**

*Other gifts will be designated for the ongoing Mission and Ministry of First Trinity. Thank you for making an impact today!*

*We welcome to the Lord's Table baptized believers who confess their sins, affirm their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and who accept that Christ's body and blood are truly present in Holy Communion, given for the forgiveness of sins.*

*(Stand)*

## PREPARATION FOR LORD'S SUPPER

**Leader** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Leader** Lift up your hearts.

**People** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Leader** Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Leader** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS *Hymnal 208*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Leader** On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take; eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.

**Leader** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People** **Amen. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. *Isaiah 9:6a***

**Leader** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment.

**People** **Amen. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. *Isaiah 9:6a***

**Leader** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People** **And also with you.**



## **AGNUS DEI** *Hymnal 210*

### *Verse 1*

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

### *Verse 2*

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*After coming up for Communion, please grab a jingle bell for use in the closing hymn.*

*(Sit)*

## **COMMUNION HYMNS**

### ***Of the Father's Love Begotten*** *Hymnal 384*

#### *Verse 1*

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.

#### *Verse 2*

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.

#### *Verse 3*

This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

#### *Verse 4*

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

#### *Verse 5*

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

*Text: Public domain*

## ***Away in a Manger*** Hymnal 364

### *Verse 1*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

### *Verse 2*

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

*(Stand)*

## **BLESSING**

## **CLOSING HYMN *Oh How Joyfully***



### *Verse 1*

Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily,  
Christmas comes with its grace divine!  
Grace again is beaming, Christ the world redeeming,  
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time.

### *Verse 2*

Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily,  
Christmas comes with its peace divine!  
Peace on earth is reigning, Christ our peace regaining,  
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!



### *Verse 3*

Oh, how joyfully, Oh, how merrily,  
Christmas comes with its life divine!  
Angels high in glory, Chant the Christmas story:  
Hail, ye Christians, hail the joyous Christmas time!

## **POSTLUDE**


*Unless noted otherwise, scripture passage came from the English Standard Version.  
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*Special thanks to our Kantorei.*

### *Verse 3*

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

*Text: Public domain*

At the , all sing  
and ring your bells  
jubilantly.

## **POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

### **GIVEN BY**

Joel Rockensuess  
Marsha Peth  
Anne Miller  
Beth Schmidt  
Mary Ann and David Young  
Randy& Karen Wert  
Tim Hartnett  
Maryann Bryant

### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

Marion & Arthur Rockensuess, Felimina Rotundo  
Mark Peth and Julie Jean Reid  
Beloved family and friends  
My parents, Benjamin and Barbara Todtenhagen  
Benjamin, Christopher and our loved ones in heaven  
Kaden Wert  
Christopher  
Carrie Lynn Bryant

### **GIVEN BY**

Pam Trevino

### **IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR**

Our children, Jesse and Emma

