



Trinity Lutheran Church

1 Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025



Welcome

Invocation:

P: Let us worship together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Confession of Sins & Absolution:

P: Let us confess our sins before God our Father.

C: **We confess that as all good things in this life fade, We cling to moments that cannot last. We labor in a world broken by sin, where joy gives way to sorrow, and life to death. Forgive us, Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

Silence for reflection

P: Hear the good news. To us a child is born, to us a son is given. His Kingdom is good, growing, and unending. In Christ, your sins are forgiven and your future is secure. You are citizens of his everlasting Home. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Hymn:

"Christmas Sanctus"

Sing! 745

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

God's Word: Isaiah 63:7-14

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his holy spirit; therefore he became their enemy; he himself fought against them. ¹¹Then they remembered the days of old, of Moses his servant. Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is the one who put within them his holy spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to march at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like cattle that go down into the valley, the spirit of the Lord gave them rest. Thus you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Hymn:

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Sermon Intro(Inspired by the Sonnet, ‘Refugee’, by Malcolm Guite, and using Gal. 4:4-7))

P: Christmas continues for us. We rejoice for twelve days pondering the mystery, the wonder, the awe as Mary did in her heart.

C: **When the fullness of time had come ...**

P: We picture Jesus safe in a manger crib, wrapped and warm. We forget the danger Christ’s birth brings and that this moment in time changes everything.

C: **When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son...**

P: But Christ is with a million displaced people, on the long road of weariness and want in this world.

C: **When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman...**

P: Before we have finished singing the carols, before all treasured décor is stored away, Jesus’ family is up and on that road, fleeing the wrath of Herod’s rule.

C: **When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law...**

P: As desert winds blow on a dark and lonely road, Herod rages from his dark tower. The wee Jesus clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled, held in her safe embrace.

C: **When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law...**

P: Small ones, wee lambs, were slaughtered by men of power, and still today death squads spread their curse across the world.

C: **When the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children...**

P: But every Herod dies and comes alone to stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

C: **God’s children cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ for we are no longer slaves but His children and His heirs through Christ Jesus our Lord!**

Message

“Is He Safe?”

Offertory:

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

Offering will be received at this time

Prayers of the People:

Lord’s Prayer:

Benediction:

Sending Hymn:

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LBW 60

Dismissal

P: Go in the peace of Christ, you are loved and sent.

C: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Coming Home for Christmas: Advent in Isaiah @2025, 1517

^Created by Pr. M. Theiss 2025

Please note the office will be closed December 24 – January 6