CHRISTMASTIDE

LESSONS &

DECEMBER 28 2025 | 10AM

★ THE LITURGY OF THE WORD ★

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Grace Mauk, piano)

J. S. Bach

welcome

The Rev. Jon M. Richardson



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879).

Presider

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the child of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion until the glorious redemption brought to us by the holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which Christ died, and especially for the Church in our country and in this city. And because they are particularly beloved, let us remember in God's name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love our Savior Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember Jesus' pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Sovereign of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 2:4B-9, 15-25

God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up-- for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-- then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man

called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

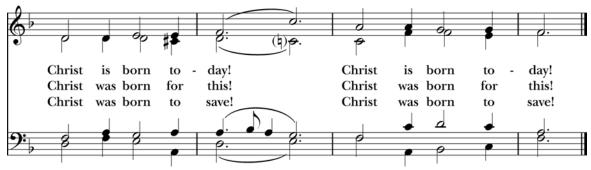
People Thanks be to God.

THE FIRST CaroL

Good Christian friends, rejoice

The Hymnal 1982 #107





Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

THE SECOND LESSON ISAIAH 35: 1-10

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.



Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

THE THIRD LESSON LUKE 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am

a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

THE THIRD Carol

It came upon the midnight clear

The Hymnal 1982 #89

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men,
 from heaven's all-gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
 by prophets seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years
 shall come the time foretold,
 when peace shall over all the earth
 its ancient splendors fling,
 and all the world give back the song
 which now the angels sing.

THE FOURTH LESSON LUKE 2:1-20

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

THE FOURTH Carol

The first Nowell

The Hymnal 1982 #109





THE FIFTH LESSON JOHN 1:1-18

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

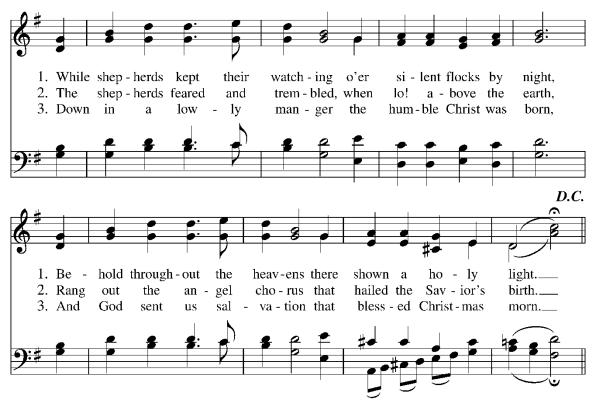
And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

THE FIFTH Carol Go tell it on the mountain LEVAS #21





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тне реасе

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements & Offertory Invitation

To give online, visit www.trinitytoledo.org/online-giving/, choose GIVE NOW and today's date. You can also text the word "Give" to 419-OMG-LOVE (419-664-5683) to make your weekly offering. You can also deposit a gift in our Giving Box stationed at the back of the sanctuary.

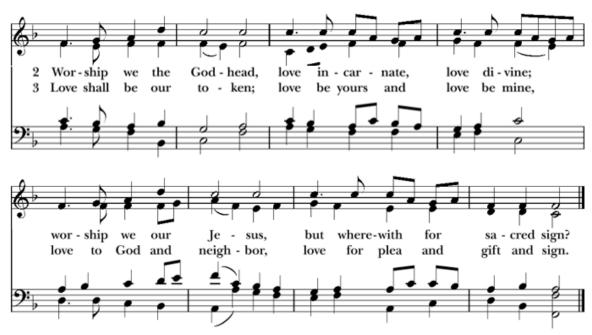


offertory

If God be for us
(Grace Wipfli, soprano and Grace Mauk, piano)

from "Messiah" George Fredric Handel

If God be for us, who can be against us?
Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?
It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth?
It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again,
Who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.



Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: Gartan, melody from Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

▼ THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE ▼

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharistic Prayer A (Expansive Language Version)

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to God.

Presider Let us give thanks to Christ our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your beloved child, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made a perfect example of humanity, born of the flesh of Blessed Mary, his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of our faults, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker and of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night being handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

Sanctus from Deutsche Messe by Franz Schubert



We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LOTD'S Prayer

Presider

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

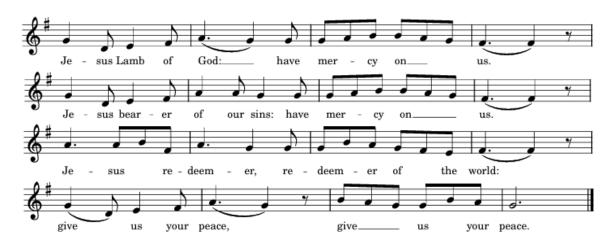
The Hymnal 1982 #S-164

Presider

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.



Presider

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Receive this gift in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose for you, and feed in him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

invitation to communion

The priest will invite everyone to come forward for communion. The ushers will direct you when it is time. At Trinity we offer both fresh bread and a gluten free option. In solidarity with our siblings in recovery, we offer only non-alcoholic wine. All are welcome.



Words: Coventry carol, 15th cent. Music: Coventry Carol, melody from Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15th cent.; harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958). Harmonization by permission of Oxford University Press.



Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934).

THE POST COMMUNION Prayer

Please stand, as you are able.

Presider

Let us pray.

All

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth as people who are forgiven, healed, and renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

Presider

May Christ, who by the Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with all joy and peace. And the blessing of God who creates us, Christ who walks with us, and the Holy Spirit who empowers us for the journey be among you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

sending song

Sing we now of Christmas

UMC Hymnal #237 See next page.

DISMISSAL

Presider

Go in peace to love and serve our loving, liberating, and life-giving God.

People

Thanks be to God!



WORDS: Trad. French carol (Lk. 2:8-20; Mt. 2:1-12) MUSIC: Trad. French carol; harm. by Martin Shaw, 1928

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FRENCH CAROL 11 10.10 11 Vestry Leadership

Jeffrey Albright, *Sr. Warden*Kyle Grefe, *Jr. Warden*Margaret Baehren, *Treasurer*Angie Carriker, *Clerk*Jack Diedrick
Gary Franklin
Brian Ingman
Kimberly Kefalas
Becky Koskinen
Jamie Paul

Parish Staff

The Rev. Jon M. Richardson, Rector
The Rev. Meribah Mansfield, Deacon
The Rev. Robert Gahler, Assisting Priest
Heather Meyer, Director of Operations
George M. Benson, Director of Community Engagement
Chelsie Cree, Director of Music and the Arts
Grace Mauk, Asst. Director of Music and the Arts
Grace Wipfli, Soprano Section Leader
Hayley Hoss, Alto Section Leader
Steven Sloan, Tenor Section Leader
Bradley Baker, Bass Section Leader
Josh Buckner, Livestream Operator
Jason Rahe, Sound

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