



This is what Christmas Looks Like

December 26, 2021



The First Sunday After Christmas

December 26, 2021

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Paul Jenkins

Service Volunteers:

Usher: Scott Mund

Asst Ushers: Sam Kovaciny, Mathew Mund

Keyboard Operators: Scott Mund, Erika Ohlendorf

Livestream Producer: Jack Proksch

Pre-Service Music provided by: Suey Nordberg

Today's Focus: St. Stephen reflected the beautiful reality of Christmas in his words, actions and attitudes. With the joyous truth of Christmas in our hearts, we ask God also to make us people who speak boldly, die confidently, and forgive freely. Our worship follows *Morning Praise*.

We Come into the Presence of God

PASTOR'S GREETING AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

STAND

MORNING HYMN



1 Fa - ther, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, Ac - tive and
2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; Ban - ish our
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch - ful, stand - ing now be - fore you. Sing - ing, we of - fer
weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing. Bring us to heav - en,
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion. Yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; Thus we a - dore you.
where your saints u - nit - ed Joy with - out end - ing.
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing Through all cre - a - tion.

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

MORNING PRAYER

M: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

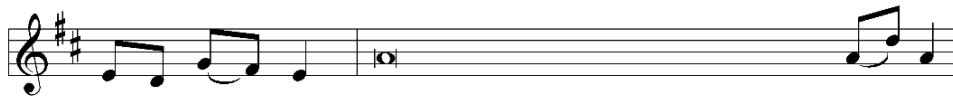
M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: Unto us the Christ is born: let us worship him.



C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



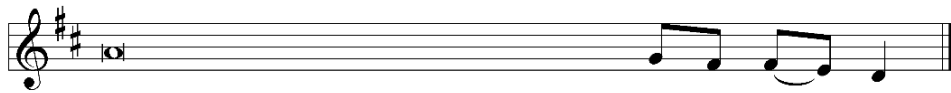
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 26:1-15

Like St. Stephen centuries later, Jeremiah fearlessly proclaimed divine truth

In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah, king of Judah, the following word came from the LORD.

² This is what the LORD says. Stand in the courtyard of the LORD's house, and speak to people from the cities and towns of Judah who have come to worship at the House of the LORD. Tell them everything I have commanded you to tell them. Do not hold back a single word. ³ Maybe they will listen, and everyone will turn from his evil way. Then I will relent and not bring about the disaster that I was planning because of the evil things they have done.

⁴ You are also to say this to him.

This is what the LORD says. If you will not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you, ⁵ and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (but you have not listened), ⁶ then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make the name of this city a curse word for all the nations of the earth.

⁷ The priests, the prophets, and all the people listened as Jeremiah spoke these words at the House of the LORD. ⁸ When Jeremiah had finished saying everything the LORD had commanded him to say to all the people, then the priests, the prophets, and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! ⁹ Why do you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this house will be like Shiloh and that this city will be desolate with no one living here?" All the people crowded around Jeremiah in the House of the LORD.

¹⁰ When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they came up from the king's house to the House of the LORD and sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

¹¹ Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has been prophesying against this city, as you heard with your own ears."

¹² Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and to all the people, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the things that you have heard. ¹³ Now reform your ways and your actions, and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring about the disaster he has pronounced against you. ¹⁴ But as for me, look, I am in your hands. Do with me whatever seems good and right in your eyes. ¹⁵ But you can be certain of this. If you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live here, for it is true that the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

SEASONAL SENTENCE

M: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Acts 6:8 - 7:2, 51-60

Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹ Some men who were from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia) rose up and disputed with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they were unable to stand up against the wisdom and the Spirit by whom he was speaking.

¹¹ Then they secretly induced some men to say, "We heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." ¹² They stirred up the people, the elders, and the experts in the law. They came, dragged Stephen away, and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³ They presented false witnesses who said, "This man never stops making threats against this holy place and the law. ¹⁴ In fact, we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵ All those who were sitting in the Sanhedrin were looking intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

⁷ Then the high priest asked, “Are these things true?”

² Stephen said, “Gentlemen, brothers and fathers, listen!...⁵¹ You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit! You are doing just what your fathers did. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who prophesied the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers— ⁵³ you who received the law as transmitted by angels, but did not keep it.”

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ He said, “Look, I see heaven opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

⁵⁷ But they screamed at the top of their voices, covered their ears, and rushed at him with one purpose in mind. ⁵⁸ They threw him out of the city and stoned him. The witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” ⁶⁰ Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” After he said this, he fell asleep.

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:34-39

Jesus expresses his deep sadness over Israel's rejection of him and his messengers. Even out of his sadness, his tender, loving heart that longs forgive shines through.

“Look, this is why I am sending you prophets, wise men, and experts in the law. Some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town. ³⁵ As a result, you will be held responsible for all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Amen I tell you: All these things will come upon this generation.

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will certainly not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S SERMON: "Meet St. Stephen"

HYMN OF THE DAY: 402 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a -
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold,



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me
faint - ing heart; My zeal in - spire! As thou hast
round me spread, Be thou my guide. Bid dark - ness
sul - len stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior,



while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way;
died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
turn to day, Wipe sor - row's tears a - way,
then, in love, Fear and dis - trust re - move;



Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87.

Tune: OLIVET (664 6664) Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.

SERMON

Text: Acts 6:8 - 7:2, 51-60

Theme: This is What Christmas Looks Like

Stand

TE DEUM



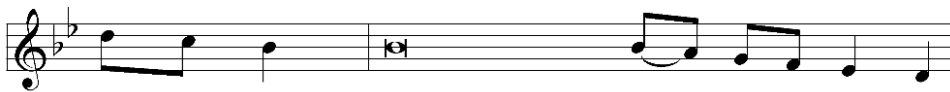
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



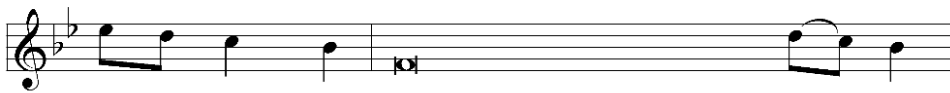
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



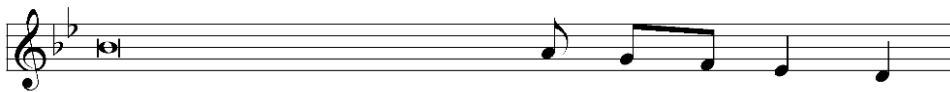
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



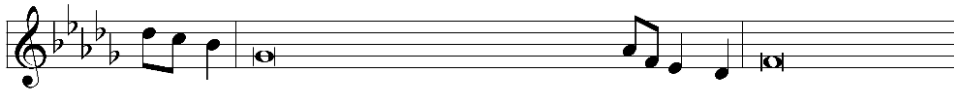
Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,



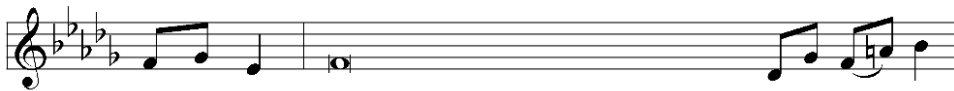
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

OFFERING

The offering will be collected at the door. You may drop off your offering in the plates either before or after the worship service.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

M: It is fitting, Lord, in the closing days of this year, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

M: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

M: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself – all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

Special prayers

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word, that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in peace.

C: **We ask these blessings in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we will bring it to a close. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us praise the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 391, God Loved the World So that He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly
 2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the
 5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
 sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
 sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.
 Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.
 soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To you, O blessed Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: *Heiliges Lippen . . . Gesangbuch*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Pastor Paul Jenkins: revpauljenkins@yahoo.com, (309) 433-5807

Dawn Knox Administrative Assistant: AdminAssistant@TrinityofWoodbridge.org, (703) 615-9320

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

2022 Offering Envelopes are here!

Offering envelopes for current Trinity members are available for pickup in the front classroom.

New Worship Schedule Starts Next Sunday!

Beginning next Sunday, January 2 Trinity will return to two Sunday morning worship services. The first service will be at 8:30. At this service:

- masks are optional
- offering plates will be passed
- Communion will be distributed hand-to-hand, with the chalice available to those who want it
- children will be invited to come forward for the children's sermon

The second service will be at 11:00. At this service:

- masks are required
- offerings will be placed in the plates at the entrance to the sanctuary
- Communion will be distributed from distance
- children will remain in their pews for the children's sermon

Bible class and Sunday School will begin at 9:45. Masks are optional during Bible study. Sunday School will continue following Prince William County's Public Schools' guidance on masking. Adult Bible class will continue to be repeated online each Wednesday night (Thursdays during Lent) at 7pm for those unable to attend in person on Sunday morning.

Please understand that a main reason for adding a second, "covid-conscience" service is to make in-person worship more accessible for Trinity's members and guests who have been held away for over eighteen months by covid concerns. Therefore, the rules for the second service will be enforced in the building beginning at 10:50am. Please make life easy and not burdensome for your pastor for and your brothers and sisters in Christ attending the late service; if you're still in the building at 10:50, please be wearing a mask over your nose and mouth. If you forget, you will be reminded please to mask up or please to exit. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, and for taking these words in the kindest possible way.

Trinity Women's Bible Study - January 8

Looking for an opportunity to grow in God's Word and for fellowship with other women? We'd love to have you join our next women's Bible study on Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We will discuss chapter four, "Esther" of "Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust" by Sharla Fritz.

If you'd like to join the Bible study, please email Erika at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com for a copy of the book.

In-Person Bible Study

Our current Bible study topic on Sunday morning is prayer. Other topics to follow through the spring of 2022 will include: friendship evangelism, Mark's Gospel, Lutheran worship, and the prophet Zechariah.

The same sessions are repeated each Wednesday night (Thursdays during Lent and Advent) at 7pm online, for those who teach Sunday school, are out of town on Sunday, or otherwise unable to attend in person. These classes will be on Zoom, with the links provided in pastor's weekly email.

Upcoming Bible Class/Sunday School Schedule

Bible class and Sunday School will not meet today (Christmas break). In-person Bible class and Sunday School resume next week between worship services, at 9:45. Online Wednesday night Bible class will start up again at 7pm each week.

Wine and Word Bible Study – On Break until January 6th

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30pm and are journeying through the book of Genesis with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Ushers Wanted

If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Scott Mund.

Our Little Free Library

Our Little Free Library always welcomes donations of books and food! If the library outside is full, you can place donations in the white plastic bin in the Fellowship Hall right beside the door to the hallway.

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity and waiting to return to the sanctuary for worship, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.