

See the Perfect Gift;
Give the Best Gifts



January 7, 2024

An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





January 7, 2024

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: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: The light of Jesus' salvation shines to all people. Our worship follows *The Common Service*.

We Come into the Presence of God

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

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

OPENING HYMN: 82 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" verses 1-4



1 Songs of thank - ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph - et, Priest, and
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole Pal - sied limbs and
4 Sun and moon shall dark - ened be; Stars shall fall, the



you we raise, Man - i - fest - ed by the star
King su - preme, And at Ca - na, Wed - ding Guest,
faint - ing soul; Man - i - fest in val - iant fight,
heav'ns shall flee. Christ will then like light - ning shine;



To the Ma - gi from a - far, Branch of roy - al
In your God - head man - i - fest; Man - i - fest in
Quell - ing all the dev - il's might; Man - i - fest in
All will see his glo - rious sign. All will then the



Da - vid's stem, In your birth at Beth - le - hem.
pow'r di - vine, Chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine.
gra - cious will, Ev - er bring - ing good from ill.
trum - pet hear; All will see the judge ap - pear.



An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
An - thems be to you ad - dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.
You by all will be con - fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.

INVOCATION

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray. Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 24:15-17a

Balaam was a false prophet, hired to curse Israel. Instead, the Lord forced him to say what the Lord wanted him to say, including a prophecy of the King of Israel's rising star.

Balaam took up his oracle and said:

The declaration of Balaam son of Beor,
the declaration of the man whose eye is open,
¹⁶ the declaration of the one who hears the words of God,
who receives knowledge from the Most High,
who sees the vision of the Almighty,
who is falling down, but his eyes are wide open:

¹⁷ I see him, but not now.

I behold him, but not near.

A star will come out of Jacob.

A scepter will rise up out of Israel.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 72

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: Endow the King with your justice, O God,

C: the royal Son with your righteousness.

M: He will defend the afflicted among the people

C: and save the children of the needy.

M: He will endure as long as the sun,

C: as long as the moon, through all generations.

M: He will be like rain falling on a mown field,

C: like showers watering the earth.

M: All kings will bow down to him,

C: and all nations will serve him.

M: All nations will be blessed through him,

C: and they will call him blessed.

M: Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.

C: May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:13-15, 28-32

God sent his Son for Jews and Gentiles alike. Paul writes that the rejection of the gospel by the Jews led to the gospel bringing many Gentiles to faith, and the faith of the Gentiles would lead to Paul's fellow Jews to reconsider the gospel.

I am speaking to you Gentiles. For as long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I am going to speak highly of my ministry. ¹⁴Perhaps I may make my own people jealous, and so save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, what does their acceptance mean other than the dead coming to life?

(Continued on Next Page)

In regard to the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But, in regard to election, they are especially dear for the sake of the patriarchs,²⁹ because God's gracious gifts and call are not regretted.³⁰ For just as you were once disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy due to their disobedience,³¹ so also now they have become disobedient, so that by the mercy shown to you they may be shown mercy too.³² For God imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may show mercy to all.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! "We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Alleluia! (*Matthew 2:2b*)

STAND

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Matthew 2:1-12

M: The Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter 2.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked,² "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."³ When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him.⁴ He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born.⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared.⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him."

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy.¹¹ After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.¹² Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

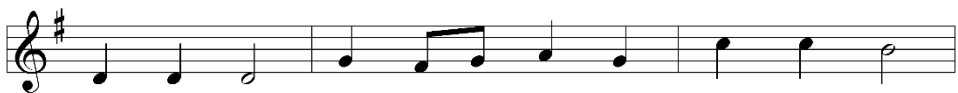
BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S SERMON: "The Most Beautiful Star"

HYMN OF THE DAY: 83 “As with Gladness Men of Old”



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
 low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
 rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
 nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,
 a - ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
 You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with
 Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
 Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no
 You its sun which goes not down. There for - ev - er



Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
 will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
 treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.
 star to guide, Where no clouds your glo - ry hide.
 may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.
 Tune: Dix (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

SERMON

TEXT: Matthew 2:1-12

THEME: “See the Perfect Gift; Give the Best Gifts”

STAND

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'CREATE IN ME'. It consists of five staves of music in a single system. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is written in a soprano or alto clef.

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your pew.

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.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of glory, you delight in making yourself known to us and others. Bring us to recognize and rejoice in your majesty and your ministry. In love you chose to exercise your greatest strength to serve us in our greatest need. You revealed the brightness of your glory through deeds of humble love.

You called ordinary men to do extraordinary things as your disciples and apostles. You also call us to follow you confidently, learn from you diligently, and imitate you lovingly. Equip and empower us to serve you and our neighbor faithfully. Use us as your witnesses to bring many throughout the world to the light of your gospel.

Special prayers

M: Preserve your truth among us, and by that truth preserve us until you appear in dazzling splendor to bring us to the glory of heaven. Let our anticipation of the heavenly kingdom fill with joy our thinking and speaking, enrich our conduct, and increase our faithfulness in all aspects of earthly life. Hear us, Light of the Gentiles and Glory of Israel. 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.


C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 315 "Here, O My Lord, I see You Face to Face"



1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
 4 Mine is the sin but yours the right - eous - ness;
 5 Too soon we rise; the ves - sels dis - ap - pear.



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
 Here is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread a - new.
 An - oth - er arm but yours to lean up - on.
 Mine is the guilt but yours the cleans - ing blood.
 The feast, though not the love, is past and gone.



Here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:
 The bread and wine re - move, but you are here,



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
 The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with you.
 My strength is in your might, your might a - lone.
 Your blood, your right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.
 Near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.

6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, abr., alt.
 Tune: FARLEY CASTLE (10 10 10 10) Henry Lawes, 1595–1662.

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 82 “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” verse 5

5 Grant us grace to see you, Lord, Mirrored in your
ho - ly Word. May our lives and all we do
Im - i - tate and hon - or you That we all like
you may be At your great e - piph - a - ny
And may praise you, ev - er blest, God in man made man-i-fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.
Tune: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR (77 77 D) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Catechism and Bible Class Schedules Resume Today

Today we start back up with Adult and Children's Sunday School at 9:45 and Catechism directly following the 11:00am service.

Wine and Word Bible Study – January 18

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 7-8:30 pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a 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.

Women's Bible Study - Saturday, January 13

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will meet on Saturday, January 13 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We will be reading chapter four of "Esther: Providential Persian Queen" by Lou Ann Mokwa. Copies of the book can be found in the narthex.

December Attendance

3rd: Worship: 30+32=62; Bible class=25

10th: 36+28=64; 22

17th: 20+64=84; 22

24th: 72+33=105

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during Worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. 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 Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

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, 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



What does “Epiphany” Mean?

In this month of January, you will hear the word *epiphany*. The word *epiphany* means to reveal or make known. The Greek origin of the word has the picture of shining a light upon something, lighting it up. For over 1,800 years Christians have celebrated the second oldest festival of Christendom—the Epiphany of Our Lord—on Jan. 6.

At the time of Jesus, if a king or emperor made an official visit to one of his cities, it was called an epiphany. When heavenly King Jesus made his appearance as a baby in his village of Bethlehem, the King of kings had officially arrived for his subjects. God was revealing to the world—lighting it up—that the King was making an official visit: an epiphany.

(Taken from Wels.net, “Light it Up!” by Daniel M. Schroeder vol 105, Number 1 (Jan. 2018))

What does this mean to me?

Just as Jesus revealed himself to those in the small town of Bethlehem and to the Magi who came from afar to see the King of Kings, we can reveal Jesus to those who are near and far. We can do this by praying for our friends and neighbors and inviting them to join you in church each Sunday. We can do this also by helping whomever we come across that is in need.

Take a moment to think of how you would like to reveal Jesus this week & write it down here!

Parents:

Some ideas of how you can put Epiphany into practice with your children include:

- Pray for and send an offering to a mission effort in a country from which your ancestors originated.
- Write a letter of encouragement and send a care package to a family in need.
- Select a mission field in a country you know little about. Find out more about that country. Pray for the gospel workers there and the unique challenges they face. Send an offering to support that mission work.

(Taken from Wels.net, “Light it Up!” by Daniel M. Schroeder vol 105, Number 1 (Jan. 2018))

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.