

**January 26, 2025**

## **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 26, 2025**

**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 festival of St. Timothy teaches us that the Lord sets his Church about his business. 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: 234, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
5 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an  
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when  
fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and  
dore him! All that has life and breath,



he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
heed - less - ly fall - ing, has stayed you.  
mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear Now to his tem - ple draw  
Have you not seen All that is need - ful has  
What need or grief Ev - er has failed of re -  
Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can  
Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a -



near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.  
do As with his love he be - friends you.  
gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. composite.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN (14 14 478) *Ander Theil Des Erneueren Gesang-Buchs*, Stralsund, 1665, alt.

Stand

## 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 grant us forgiveness.

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**

*(Continued on Next Page)*

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. O almighty God, you have always given your Church faithful shepherds to feed and nourish your flock. Grant that all pastors may rightly preach your Word and administer your sacraments that your people may be guided in the way that leads to eternal life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

# THE WORD

## FIRST LESSON

### Acts 20:28-35

*Paul teaches the spiritual leaders of Ephesus why they have their position and about the work the Lord wants them to do.*

“Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after my departure savage wolves, who will not spare the flock, will come in among you. <sup>30</sup>Even from your own group men will rise up, twisting the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>Therefore be always on the alert! Remember that for three years, night and day, I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

<sup>32</sup>“And now I entrust you to God and to the word of his grace, which has power to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup>I did not covet anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. <sup>34</sup>You yourselves know that these hands have provided for my needs and for those who were with me. <sup>35</sup>In every way I gave you an example that, by working hard like this, we need to help the weak and to remember the words that the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

## PSALM OF THE DAY: 84

*Read responsively*

M: How lovely is your dwelling place,

**C: O LORD Almighty!**

M: My soul yearns, even faints,

**C: for the courts of the LORD.**

M: Blessed are they who dwell in your house;

**C: they are ever praising you.**

M: Better is one day in your courts

**C: than a thousand elsewhere.**

M: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

**C: than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

M: O LORD Almighty,

**C: blessed are they who trust in you.**

## SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

### Titus 1:1-9

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect people and the knowledge of the truth that conforms to godliness, <sup>2</sup>based on the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. <sup>3</sup>At the proper time he revealed this in his word, in the preaching that was entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

<sup>4</sup>To Titus, my true child in our common faith:

Grace and peace from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

<sup>5</sup>The reason I left you in Crete was so that you would set in order the things that were left unfinished and appoint elders in every city, as I directed you. <sup>6</sup>Such a man is to be blameless, the husband of only one wife, and to have believing children who are not open to a charge of wild living or disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Indeed an overseer, since he is God's steward, must be blameless, not arrogant, not quick-tempered, not a drunkard, not violent, not eager for dishonest gain. <sup>8</sup>Instead, he must be hospitable, loving what is good, self-controlled, upright, devout, and disciplined. <sup>9</sup>He must cling to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he will be able both to encourage people by the sound teaching and also to correct those who oppose him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! My mouth will tell of your righteousness, of your salvation all day long. Alleluia! (*Psalms 71:15*)

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

### Luke 10:1-9

*Jesus sends out missionaries with instructions for their work of spreading the good news of the kingdom of God.*

M: The Gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 10.

### C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

<sup>2</sup>He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. So ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup>Go your way. Look, I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup>Do not carry a money bag or traveler's bag or sandals. Do not greet anyone along the way. <sup>5</sup>Whenever you enter a house, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' <sup>6</sup>And if a peaceful person is there, your peace will rest on him, but if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup>Remain in that same house, eating and drinking what they give you, because the worker is worthy of his pay. Do not keep moving from house to house. <sup>8</sup>Whenever you enter a town and they welcome you, eat what is set before you. <sup>9</sup>Heal the sick who are in the town and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near you.'"

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: Meet St. Titus**

HYMN OF THE DAY: 552, By All Your Saints Still Striving, verses 1, 5, and 3 (in that order)



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, For  
 2 All praise for faith - ful pas - tors, Who  
 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



all your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
 preached and taught your Word, For Tim - o - thy and  
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blessed. You  
 Ti - tus, True serv - ants of their Lord. Lord,  
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



rose, our King vic - to - rious, That they  
 help your pas - tors nour - ish The souls  
 all the ran - somed num - ber Who stand



might wear the crown And ev - er shine in  
 with - in their care, So that your Church may  
 be - fore the throne As - cribe all pow'r and



splen - dor Re - flect - ed from your throne.  
 flour - ish And all your bless - ings share.  
 glo - ry And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio B. Nelson, 1823–1913, st. 1-4, 6-27, alt.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 5.  
 St. 1-4, 6-27. From *The Hymnal 1982*. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used by  
 permission of Church Publishing Inc., New York, NY.  
 St. 5 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: KUORTANE (76 76 D) Finnish folk tune, c. 19th century.

**SERMON**

**Text:** Titus 1:1-9

**Theme:** Faithful and True

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 musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It features a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "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."

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: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church: for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith in knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers and in our congregation and in our synod.

**C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.**

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**C: Move us to support them with prayers and offerings.**

*Special prayers*

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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 unto 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 in blessing his saints of the past has given us glorious assurance and hope that, following their example of faith, we may run with perseverance the race marked out for us, and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 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: 313, Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way  
 2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre -  
 3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; Take heed how  
 4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion If sal - va -  
 5 Christ says, "Come, all you that la - bor, And re - ceive



God's wrath for - ev - er; By his bit - ter grief and  
 cious food sup - ply - ing, Gives his bod - y with the  
 you are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be -  
 tion you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup -  
 my grace and fa - vor; Those who feel no pain or



woe He saved us from the e - vil foe.  
 bread And with the wine the blood he shed.  
 lieve, Judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.  
 pose You need not him who died and rose.  
 ill Need no phy - si - cian's help or skill."

6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken                      7 Praise the Father, who from heaven  
 That this food is to be taken                                      Unto us such food has given  
 By the souls who are distressed,                              And, to mend what we have done,  
 By hearts that long for peace and rest.                      Gave into death his only Son.

8 If your heart this truth professes  
 And your mouth your sin confesses,  
 Surely you will be his guest  
 And at his banquet ever blest.

Text: John Hus, 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. composite.  
 Tune: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, DER VON UNS (88 78) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*,  
 Wittenberg, 1535, alt.

Stand

## 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.**



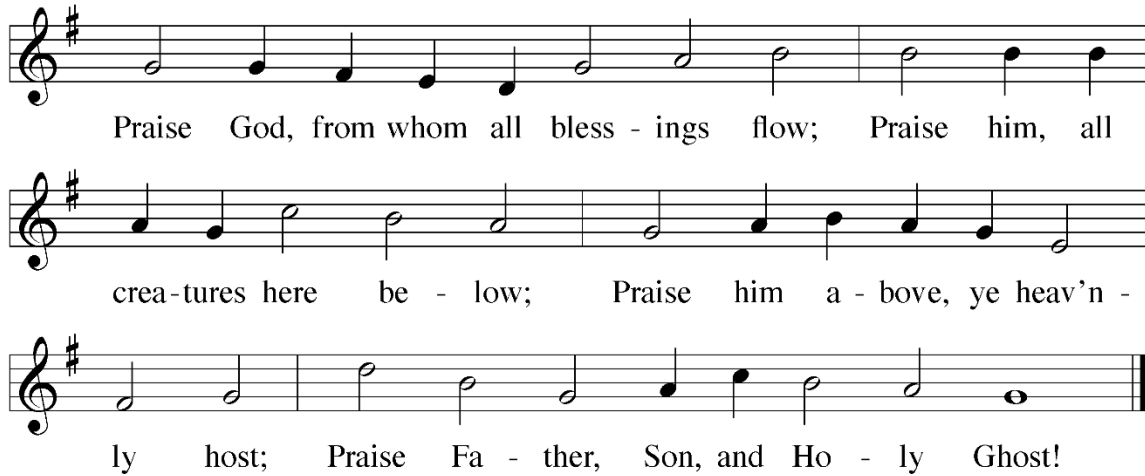
## BLESSING

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: 334, Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all". The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics are: "crea-tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n -". The third staff concludes the melody with a final note and a double bar line. The lyrics are: "ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!".

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, abr.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

## **Trinity Lutheran Church**

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](http://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)

### **Wine and Word Bible Study – February 6**

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. 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](mailto:dawn.f.knox@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### **Valentine's Breakfast – Sunday, February 9 between Services**

Trinity's Second Annual Valentine's Breakfast will be held between services on Sunday, February 9. (There will be no Bible class that Sunday, and Sunday School will be abbreviated.) There are many ways you can help: we'll need cooks (ideal for late service attendees), floaters (during the breakfast itself), and clean-up folks (ideal for early service attendees.) There is also plenty of food that can be donated. To sign up to work and/or donate food, please see the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please speak to Sandee Clay or to pastor.

This breakfast would be a great chance to invite a friend or neighbor to worship at Trinity. In addition to getting to enjoy good food and good people, it's also a non-Communion Sunday, so you could ask your guest to join you for worship without the potential awkwardness of having to explain our Close Communion practice. (We don't apologize for our practice but do recognize that it may create some tension with friends who do not understand the reasons for it.) So, if you've been thinking of asking someone you know to join us, why not target this special Sunday?

Our thanks to Sandee for spearheading the breakfast again this year!

**Trinity's Little Free Library** is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

### **Small Choir**

Trinity's 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 Steve Baker. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email [admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org](mailto:admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org)

### **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](mailto:revpauljenkins@yahoo.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



## **Meet the newborn Jesus, your Savior**

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20240105/>

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

There was also a prophet, Anna... She was very old... Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:22,25-28,36,38

When babies are born, we love to show them off. We're so happy to be blessed with a child that we want everyone to see it. Maybe we post pictures online. We have friends and families over to visit. We take the child out to meet people.

When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him out, too. They took him to the temple to show him to God. There was a law in the Old Testament that when a baby was born, his parents needed to offer a "sacrifice of purification." It was a way of saying "thank you" to God for the baby, and a way of showing that God's love washed away that baby's sin and made him part of God's family. Since we're all born in sin, God commanded that every parent do this for their child. Maybe it seems like a "little detail" that Mary and Joseph did this for Jesus, but it's not. Jesus came to save us from our sins by obeying God's laws perfectly (since you and I haven't!), and by suffering the punishment that sins earn by suffering hell in our place (so that you and I don't need to). From the very beginning of his life as his parents brought him to the temple, Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly. How God must have rejoiced to see that!

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While Mary and Joseph were at the temple, God made sure to show Jesus to other people. This wasn't just showing off a beautiful new baby. This was showing the world its savior. Two people at the temple—a believer named Simeon and an old prophet named Anna—were so happy to see Jesus, too. The Holy Spirit let them know that this was the Savior at the very beginning of his work. They praised God for the peace he brought to them, and they told other people about the wonderful gift God had given the world.

At Christmas, we got to “meet baby Jesus” and be amazed all over again. We are so happy to see our Savior who came to bring us peace. Now let's take our happiness and share this Savior with others!

### **Questions to Consider:**

Where did Mary and Joseph take Jesus when he was a baby?

How did Simeon and Anna respond when they saw him?

The Bible doesn't tell us anything about Simeon's age, but people often assume he was a very old man.

Why do you think they assume that?

After Anna saw Jesus and gave thanks to God, what did she do next?

Simeon said something strange to Mary, that “a sword” would “pierce” Mary's soul, because of Jesus.

When do you think that happened?

From the very beginning of his life, Jesus was following all of God's law. Why was it so important he kept God's law perfectly?

**It is the mission of**



**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.