Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry

300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 919-942-2678 | holytrinitychapelhill.org



First Sunday of Christmas
December 28, 2025
10am – Livestream & In-person

Holy Trinity is "Mask-Friendly" for all in-person activities.

Whichever your preference regarding mask usage, you are welcome here.

We celebrate an open table for Holy Communion. Please see the back page for more information.

Please note that our 10am service is Livestreamed and broadcast on our YouTube channel.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Eno, Lumbee, Shakori, Skaruhreh/Tuscarora peoples, and we acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called and continue to call this land their home.

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burdens of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

H Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

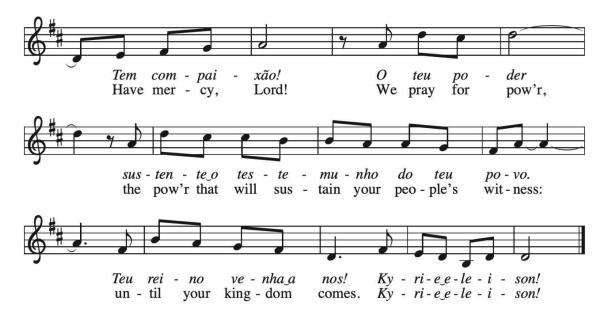
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE





Text: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, b. 1951; tr. Simei Monteiro, b. 1943, and Jorge Lockward, b. 1965 Music: PELAS DORES DESTE MUNDO, Rodolfo Gaede Neto

Portuguese text and music © 1998, 2004 Rodolfo Gaede Neto, admin. Augsburg Fortress English text © 2004 General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. By your great power, thwart evil, protect the vulnerable, and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

 $^{\rm 18}\,{\rm ``A}$ voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

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

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Katie Elkin Ziehr and the congregation of HTLC+LCM

PART 1 - HEROD

POEM

Herod

Coventry Carol

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,

by by, lully lullay.

O sisters too,
how may we do
for to preserve this day
this poor youngling,

for whom we do sing by by, lully lullay?

Herod the king,
in his raging,
charged he hath this day
his men of might,
in his own sight,
all young children to slay.

That woe is me,
poor child for thee!
and ever morn and day,
for thy parting
neither say nor sing
by by, lully lullay!

REFLECTION

PART 2 - CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:15-17

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more.

¹⁶Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping

and your eyes from tears,

for there is a reward for your work,

says the Lord:

they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷there is hope for your future,

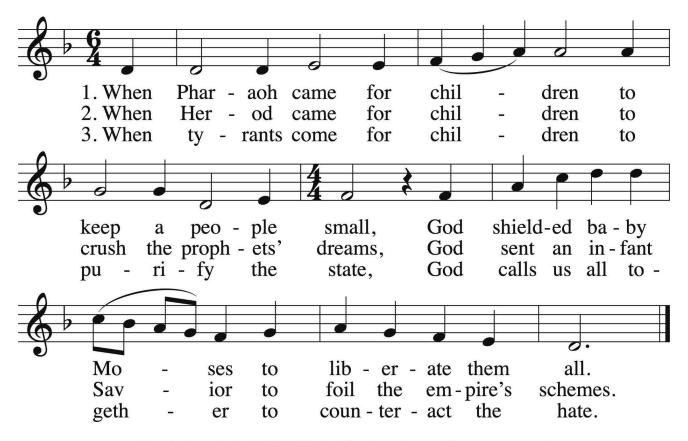
says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country.

Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.

David Bjorlin, b.1984

ES KOMMT EIN SCHIFF GELADEN Andernacher Gesangbuch, 1608



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PRAYER

When children are abused.

You share in our anger.

When children are in pain,

You share in our distress.

When children are murdered.

You share in our horror.

When children die.

You share in our despair.

God, who welcomes and cherishes children, we bring you our prayers:

We pray for children living and dying in places of fear and violence, for children dying of hunger and disease.

God, in your mercy,

--

Hear our prayer.

We pray for children who have been abducted from their homes, for children who are pawns in political games. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for children who are tortured and abused, for children whose lives are short and full of pain. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for parents who have to watch their children die, for parents who are unable to keep their children safe. God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for children and parents and guardians in our midst, for all who love them and support them.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, Merciful God. Guide our actions to advocate for justice. Help us to be bold as we care for your children.

Amen.

Burgess, Ruth. Hay and Stardust: Resources for Christmas to Candlemas. (Wild Goose Publications: Glasgow, 2005).



Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b.1945, © 1986, Oxford University Press Tune: ST. COLUMBA, CM; Irish melody

PSALM: Psalm 124

¹If it had not been the Lord who was on our side

—let Israel now say—

² if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,

³ then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

⁴ then the flood would have swept us away; the torrent would have gone over us;

⁵then over us would have gone the raging waters.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

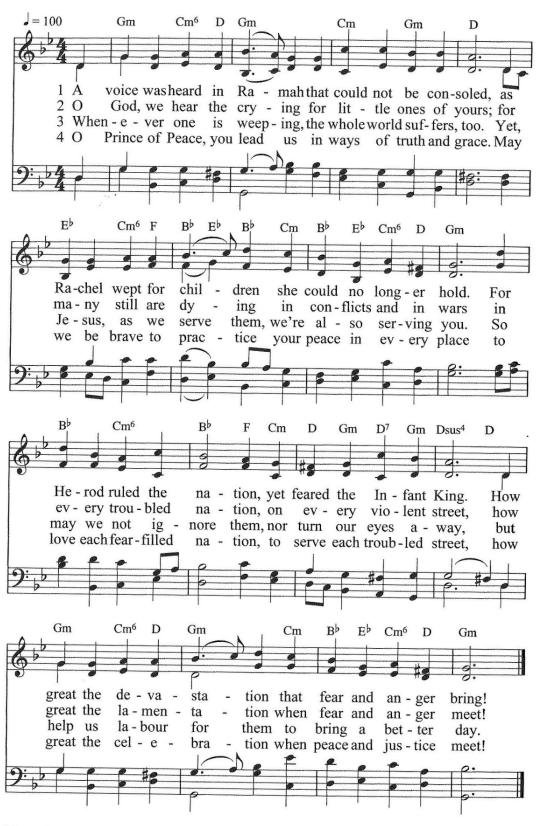
⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

⁸ Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

KING'S WESTON Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Adam M. L. Tice E flee-ing Her - od's 1. Je - sus en - tered gypt 2. Je - sus was liv - ing mi - grant as a bor - ders 3. Je - sus cross - es with the wan - d'ring hand, liv - ing lien as an the friends guest with and gers stran search - ing poor, for a ref uge, for - eign land. from home in Far and a who could of - fer rest. we hold wealth Do for door. Do our words and an o - pen with his fam - i ly, was there coun try light ly SO that we can share shel - ter tions an - swer Je - sus' plea: "Give the wel - come for this ref room and u - gee? with the home - less, and bun - dant care? a low - ly wel - come, and you wel - come me"?

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REFLECTION



A hymn for peace based on the story of the Slaughter of the Innocents in Matthew 2.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2004

Music: Welsh folk melody; Evan's *Hymnau a Thonau*, 1865; arr. *English Hymnal*, 1906 Words copyright © 2004 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

LLANGLOFFAN

7 6 7 6 D Alternate tune: PASSION CHORALE

13

APOSTLES CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEAL

OFFERING SONG

Prelude No. 4 in F Major

Robert D. Vandall

OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through Christ our Savior.

Amen.



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

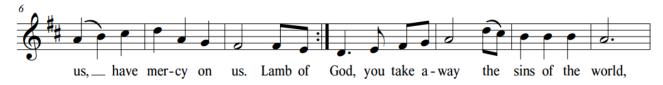
COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

Thanks be to God.

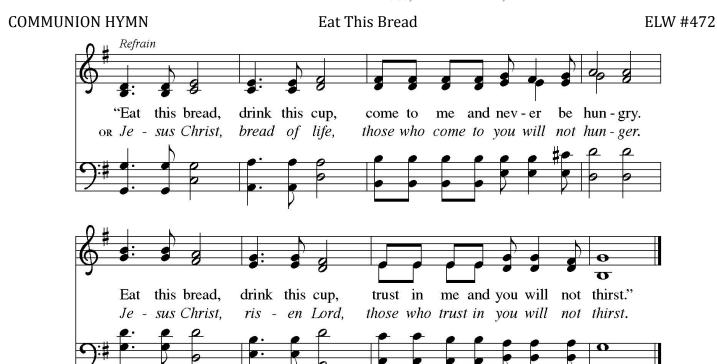
LAMB OF GOD







Contributors: Carroll T Andrews © 1966, GIA Publications, Inc.



Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

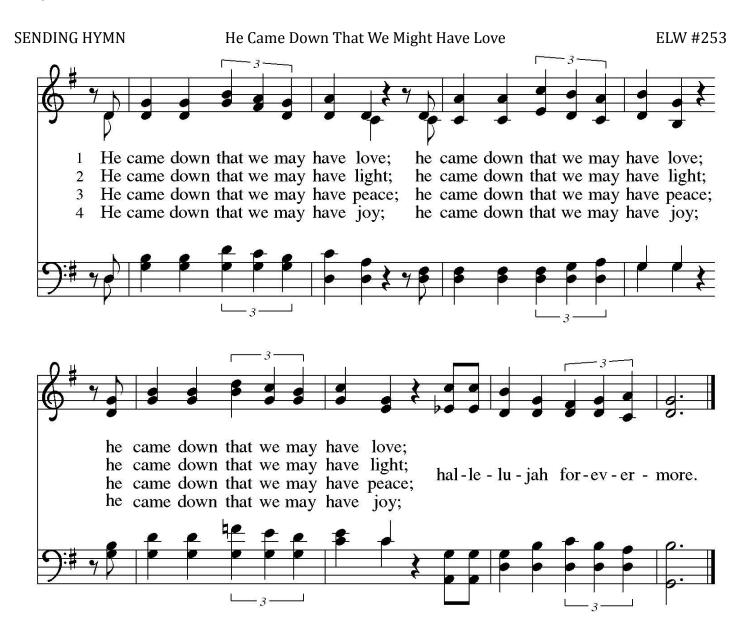
Move us to discover the wonders of your love

in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

BLESSING
The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,

⊕ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

arr. Mark Hayes

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

The Altar Flowers for today's worship service have been given by Charlie Cleary and Mary-Cassie Shaw in honor of their daughter Mollie's birthday.

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THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28th, 10am:

The Altar Guild and Communion Assistant is Sue Kirkman (10).

The usher is Ed Collins (10).

The Assisting Minister is Jane Hall (10).

The lector is Fred Black (10).

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 4th:

The Altar Guild and Communion Assistants are Karin & David Pfennig (8:30) and Ed and Kat Collins (11).

The usher is Susan Bales (11).

The Assisting Minister is ______ (8:30) and _____ (11).

The lectors are Nathan Penny (8:30) and Frank Taylor (11).

This Week's Anniversaries

December 28	Linda Varblow and Jim Holloway
December 29	Arty and Cheryl Bolick
December 30	Hannah and Will Kanwischer
January 2	Jim and Mary Ann Young

This Week's Birthdays

December 28	Signe Offenberg	January 1	Barb Fritschel
December 29	Michael Krier		Christina Hinkle
December 30	Darlene Gross		Charles Killian
	Nancy Schmitz		Lincoln Ryder
December 31	Mollie Cleary	January 2	Doris Morentz
	Jenny Shimota	January 3	John Offenberg, Jr.

Parish Pastor	Rev. William N. Rose III	(803) 237-6356	
	prwill@holytrinitychapelhill.org		
Campus Pastor	Rev. Katie Elkin Ziehr	(704) 773-6557	
	prkatie@holytrinitychapelhill.org		
Minister of Discipleship	Deacon Holly Shipley	(859) 433-5102	
	hshipley@holytrinitychapelhill.org		
Director of Worship and Music	Megan Mash	(816) 223-1953	
	mmash@holytrinitychapelhill.org		
Operations Coordinator	Grace French	(919) 942-2678	
	htlc@holytrinitychapelhill.org		
Financial Records Assistant	Toni Lehman	(919) 942-2678	
Pastor Emeritus in Chaplaincy	Rev. Claude Deal		
Ministry Center & Mailing Address	300 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514		
Worship Center	227 E. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514		
	Office: (919) 942-2678		
Office Hours	Monday – Thursday, 9:00am – 3:00pm		
	Friday 9:00am- 1:00pm		
	1		

In case of emergency, please call either Pastor directly.

www.holytrinitychapelhill.org

Instagram: @unc_lcm @htlc_youth @holytrinitychapelhill

Facebook: Holy Trinity Lutheran – Chapel Hill

YouTube: Holy Trinity Chapel Hill

Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry!

We are so glad you chose to worship with us, and we hope you experience the love and grace of God in our midst. Please fill out the "Worship Record Sheet" to record your attendance and explore ways to engage with our community of faith by using the QR code or paper sheet. Please sign up for our weekly Email Newsletter by visiting our website at www.holytrinitychapelhill.org, and subscribe to our YouTube channel at "Holy Trinity Chapel Hill". Let us know if you have any prayer requests and how we can support you in your faith journey, either by talking to a Pastor or a Stephen Minister.



Reconciling In Christ

Jesus reached across all boundaries to make God's love known, and in our baptismal covenant we are called to "serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth (ELW pg. 236)." As a Reconciling In Christ church, we at Holy Trinity welcome people of every age and ability, race, culture, religion, class, marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Children and Worship

We welcome children in worship and invite them to participate throughout the service. Children are invited to check out our Exploration Station in the Narthex and fill up a Busy Bag for activities during worship. If your child needs some time away from the service, there is a "Cry Room" (glass room near the Sanctuary, towards the Rosemary Street entrance) that's staffed during the academic year. The service is able to be heard through speakers in the Cry Room. There is also a Nursery room in the back hallway (behind the organ) where children can play with parental supervision.

Holy Communion

At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Believing in the real presence of Christ, HTLC practices Eucharistic hospitality: The Risen Christ welcomes all, therefore all are welcome to commune here. Receive the bread first, then the individual glasses containing (red) wine or (white) apple juice. Allergen-free communion wafers are available at the station in front of the altar. Those desiring not to commune may fold their hands to receive a blessing. Please let an usher or pastor know if you need communion brought to you at your seat.

Offering

In response to God's unconditional love, we offer "what God has first given us; ourselves, our time and our possessions... in feeding the world with God's love (ELW pg. 107)."

There are many ways to give at Holy Trinity: online through our **website**, **mailing in** your offering, placing your offering in our **offering plates** in our Worship Center, automatic **bank withdraws**, through the **QR code** in this worship bulletin, **text to give** at (833) 309-0136, or by **Venmo, our handle is @htlclcm** (Charity - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church). All contributions via text or Venmo will go to the HTLC general budget fund. Thank You!

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity

LCM is a community where ALL are welcome. We seek to accompany students as they encounter increased complexities in life, faith, relationships, and academics here at UNC. If you are (or you know) a student who is interested in getting connected with Campus Ministry, please get in touch with Pastor Katie by emailing her directly, or by using the QR code above to fill out the Worship Record Sheet. Mark "student" and/or "grad student," leave an email/phone number, and Pastor Katie will reach out!