

Trinity Lutheran Church

January 4,
2026

Second Sunday
Of Christmas

**217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN**

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sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)

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9am -3pm

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Every member

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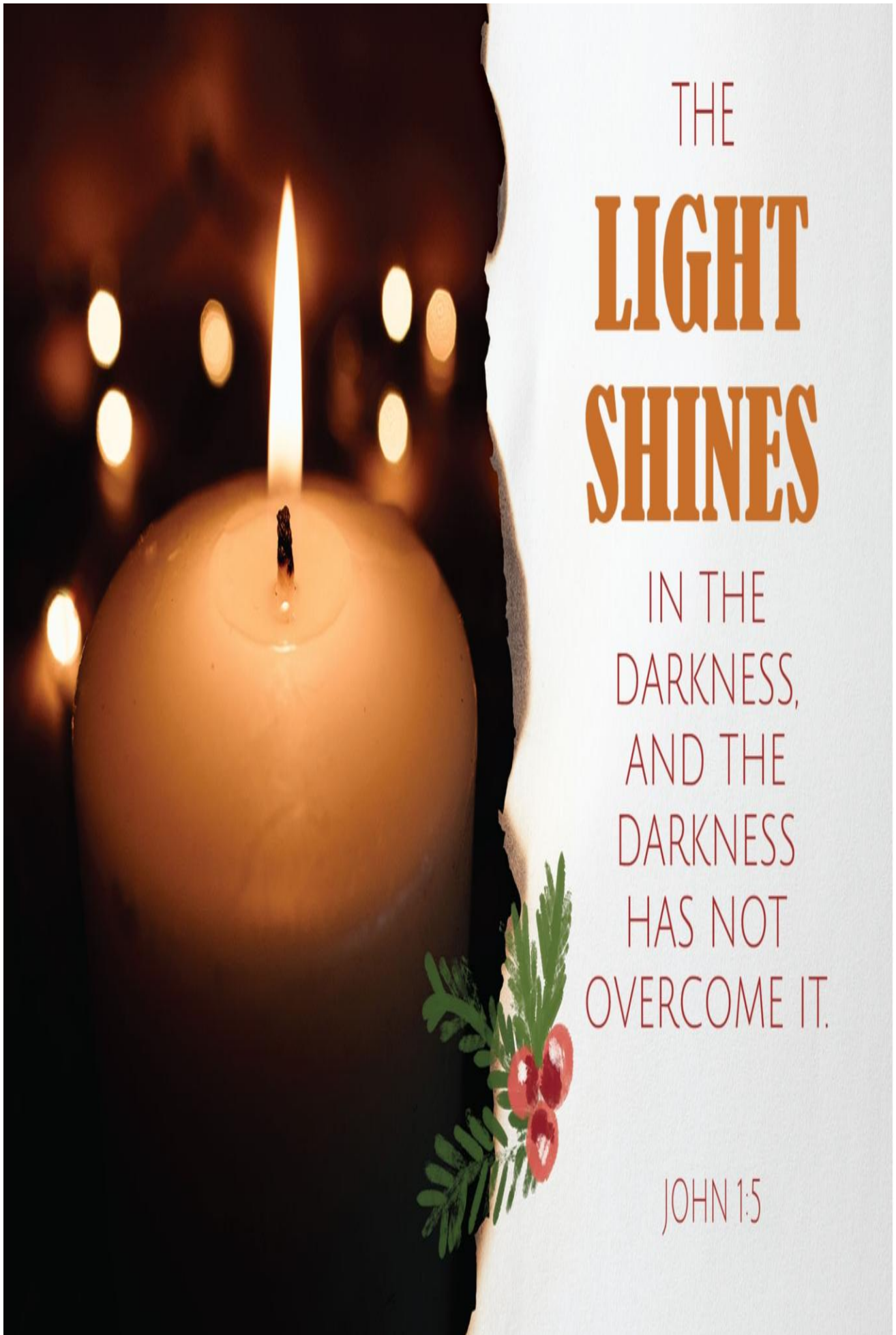
Christian Education
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education@
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Custodian
Pat Lowther

THE LIGHT SHINES

IN THE
DARKNESS,
AND THE
DARKNESS
HAS NOT
OVERCOME IT.

JOHN 1:5



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

HOLY COMMUNION ~ SETTING 3

Sunday, January 4th at 9:00am

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS HOUSE OF WORSHIP!



Our joy continues on this 11th Day of Christmas as we give thanks and praise to God, the Alpha and Omega, the only Son who is the Light of the world. May the Word made flesh dwell within everyone gathered here today, drawing you in the Holy Communion to come and receive the promise of His presence and the gift of new life given and shed for you! We ask all to sign the Friendship Pads in the book racks during the time of Communion, and after the service to come and join in fellowship over refreshments in the library. May God bless you with the Light of the World shining through you!

WORSHIP AIDS

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the ushers.

ACTIVITY BAGS for young children are on a stand at the rear of church; please return it after services. Thanks.

PLEASE SIGN the Friendship Pad as it is passed to you during the time of Offering.

IF YOUR OFFERING is given by bank-pay, please use the cards in the pews as a sign of your offering in the plate.

PREFERENCE to receiving grape juice and/or gluten free bread is indicated by raising your index finger to the server.

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... *Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

RINGING THE BELL / PARISH NOTICES

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 burden 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. ✚ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

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



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



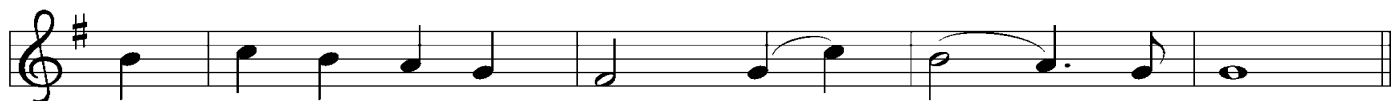
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



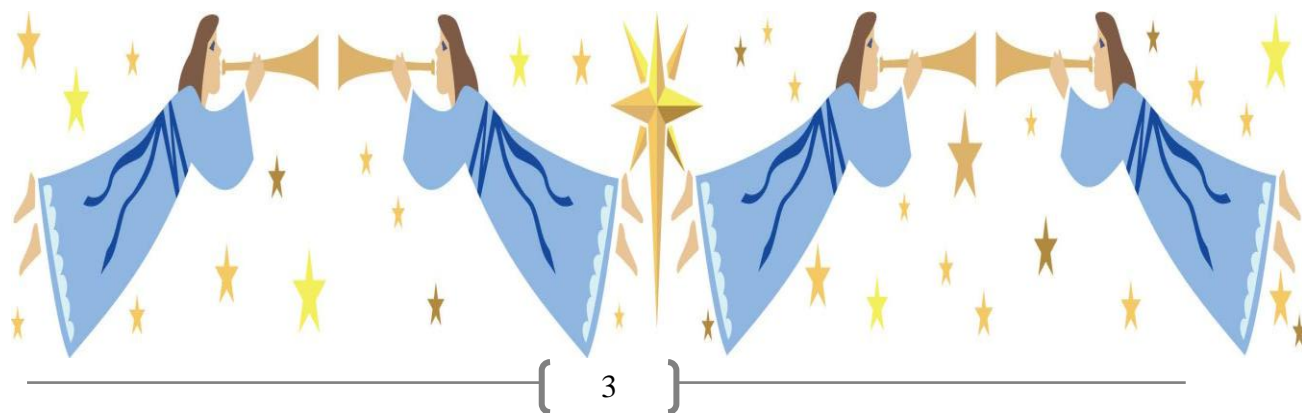
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

The first reading is in Jeremiah chapter 31, verses 7-14. God promises to bring Israel back to their land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion, Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

*For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."
See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.*

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

The second reading is in Ephesians chapter 1, verses 3-14. In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his

grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 289 vs. 1



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis

De - o;

glo



ri - a

in ex - cel - sis

De

o.



The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

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

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

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

MESSAGE

Pastor Dave Nissen

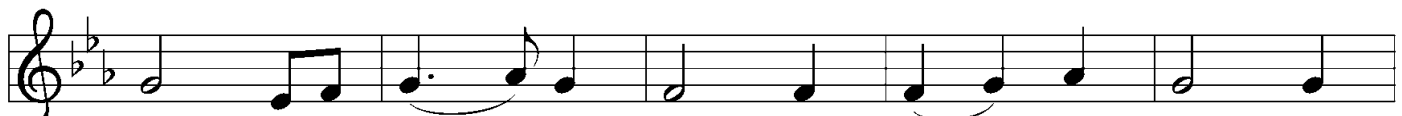
SONG OF THE DAY

The Bells of Christmas

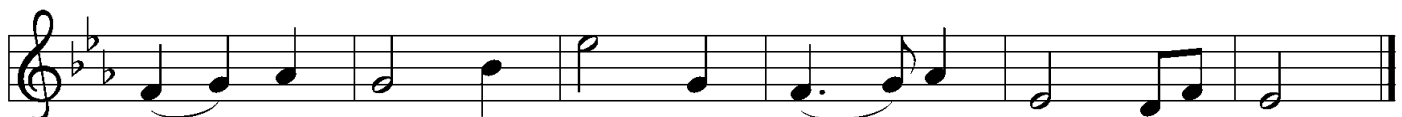
ELW 298 vs. 1, 2 & 4



1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



dwel - lings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

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: respond after Lord, God of grace,



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

ELW #715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor. The offering is brought forward by the ushers during the song)

MEAL

THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en 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 who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Come, eat, drink, and live the life God has for you.



COMMUNION BLESSING The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THANKS

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. **Amen.**
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. **Amen.**
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. **Amen.**
And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



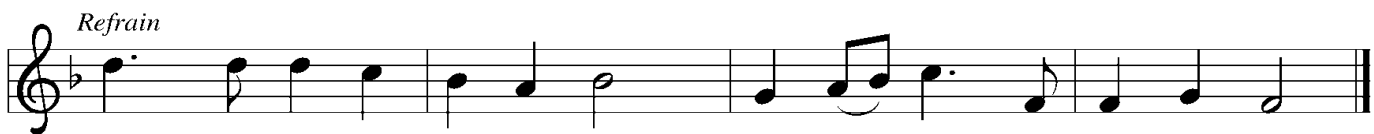
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ

SUNDAY		9:00 am Worship
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	
Acolyte	Colten Case	
Readers	Levi Johnson	
Communion Assistants	Isaac Johnson at the rail	
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen	
Greeters	Harold & Bonnie Pettis	
Ushers	Mike Peterson, Brian Polesky	
Altar Guild	Mary Renberg & Joleen Dittbenner	



HELP IS NEEDED TO TAKE DOWN THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOLLOWING SERVICE.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Altar Guild is seeking additional members. Duties include light cleaning, setting up & cleaning up following communion services, handling floral arrangements, refilling candles, changing colors and other similar weekly tasks. For more information, please contact Joleen Dittbenner or leave your name and number in church office. Thank you.



ALL PERSONS WRITING REPORTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT: Because we would like to have the Annual Reports available to the congregation before the Annual Meeting, **Sunday January 25th**, it is necessary to have all reports **in the office no later than January 6th**. It would be appreciated if you could submit them to Darlene via email. (secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org)
Thank You.



January 4, 2026

The Word became flesh, full of God's grace and truth

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	1 John 1:1-4	The Word of life
Tuesday	Philippians 2:5-11	Jesus became our servant
Wednesday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men worship Christ the King
Thursday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to the light
Friday	John 8:12-20	Jesus, the light of the world
Saturday	Psalms 72	Kings will present him with gifts
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus



SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us. John 1:14

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, please help me to receive you, believe in you, and tell others about you. Amen. (John 1:7, 12)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, make our home your home. Bless our food and our sharing, so that we may bless others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

Child of God, may the light of Jesus shine in your heart, today and forever. Amen. (John 1:9, 12)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

Talk about a time when you were with people that spoke a different language. How did you communicate?

John 1:1-2 calls Jesus "the Word". What do you think this means?

What steps has God taken to communicate with us? What do you do to communicate with God?

DEVOTIONS

Jesus has been called "God's love letter" to the world. As part of your home devotion times this week, have each household member compose a short letter to God (if you have young children in your home, help by writing down their words).

Share your letters with one another. Say a prayer of thanks for God's communication with us in and through Jesus.

SERVICE

Jeremiah 31:8 speaks of God's care for pregnant women and women having their babies. Prepare "Thinking of You" cards to send to pregnant women in your congregation or community. You might also organize small baby gifts to present to them.

Include pregnant mothers in your household prayers this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Ephesians 1:4-5, the apostle Paul tells us that long, long ago, God decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God has adopted us as his sons and daughters.

As a household activity for this week, design "Adoption Certificates" to display in your home. Include these words:

(Name)

IS AN ADOPTED CHILD OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

For seals on your certificates, use the symbol of the dove, representing the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14) You could also include your baptism dates and details on your certificates.

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In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions



Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN Send an email to secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

**TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK
CHECK IT OUT!!**

"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on www.sleepyeyeonline.com watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give.

Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You. *Please pick up your statements and envelopes in your mailbox. Thank You!*

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	263
Website	108
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$31,658.54
December Giving: (\$23,640.00 .Needed)	\$61,756.91
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$307,042.88



Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1st of the year.

Please consider naming Trinity for your Choice Funds. Call 800-847-4836

This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Trinity...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Nathan, Nicole, Henry, Dave, Susie, Gary, Jane, Mark, Sherry, Kali, Isak, Vivian, Kim, Pam, Pat, Trish, Beth, Harold, Rita, Paul, Ray, Lorinda, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Duane, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones.... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for **Brady Augustin** and his family...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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