

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*

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*Luke 2:52*

*SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS*

**“WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE?”**

REV. PETER C. WILLIAMSON

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 IN THE SANCTUARY  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
“WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE?”

REV. PETER C. WILLIAMSON  
7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

**AS WE GATHER** We can't figure God out. Mary and Joseph must have been completely confused about Jesus' desire to stay in the temple, but it was obvious to Him. There was a long list of blessings God was able to give to Solomon; fortunately, the king chose the right one. The Epistle tells us what God wants and what He has done for us, regardless of if we have understood His plan. He has chosen us, given us the Holy Spirit, and included us in a gracious inheritance. And it all revolves around our Savior—His birth, suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus did all that was necessary for grace to be poured out on us, thanks be to God. It is all certainly beyond our understanding.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** “The Journey to Bethlehem” *Lebegue*  
“Brightest and Best” *Linker*  
“See amid the Winter’s Snow” *Culli*

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN** “See amid the Winter’s Snow” *LSB 373*



1 See a - mid the win - ter’s snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap-pears, Prom-ised from e - ter - nal years.  
He who, throned in height sub-lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

*Refrain*

Hail, O ev - er - bless-ed morn! Hail, re-demp-tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt. Tune: John Goss, 1800–80 Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## KYRIE

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*"Gloria in Excelsis"*

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### OLD TESTAMENT

*1 Kings 3:4-15*

The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”<sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day.”<sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in.<sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude.<sup>9</sup> Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.<sup>11</sup> And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,<sup>12</sup> behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.<sup>13</sup> I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.”<sup>14</sup> And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”<sup>15</sup> And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

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,<sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love<sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,<sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight<sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ<sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.<sup>11</sup> In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,<sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first three staves are in common time, while the fourth staff is in half time. The lyrics are as follows:

- Staff 1: C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
- Staff 2: C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that
- Staff 3: Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- Staff 4: C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:40-52

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. <sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

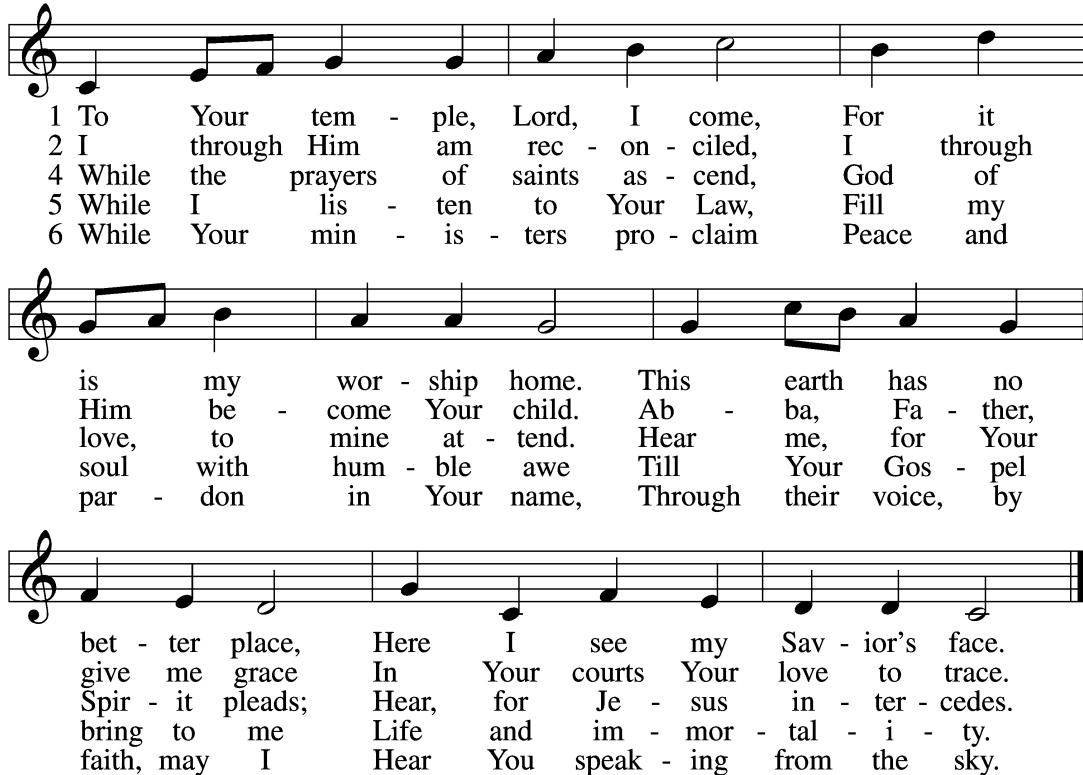
**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us, under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life <sup>†</sup> of the world to come. Amen.

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

### HYMN OF THE DAY “To Your Temple, Lord, I Come” *LSB 981, sts.1-2,4-6*



1 To Your tem - ple, Lord, I come, For it  
 2 I through Him am rec - on - ciled, I through  
 4 While the prayers of saints as - cend, God of  
 5 While I lis - ten to Your Law, Fill my  
 6 While Your min - is - ters pro - claim Peace and

is my wor - ship home. This earth has no  
 Him be - come Your child. Ab - ba, Fa - ther,  
 love, to mine at - tend. Hear me, for Your  
 soul with hum - ble awe Till Your Gos - pel  
 par - don in Your name, Through their voice, by

bet - ter place, Here I see my Sav - ior's face.  
 give me grace In Your courts Your love to trace.  
 Spir - it pleads; Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.  
 bring to me Life and im - mor - tal - i - ty.  
 faith, may I Hear You speak - ing from the sky.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON** **“Where Else Would I Be?”** *Rev. Peter C. Williamson*

## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**MUSICAL OFFERING** **“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”** *Manz*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (After each petition, the following is said...)

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

### PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.

Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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 and ever. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION** *Christ invites all repentant sinners to partake in His feast of forgiveness – the Lord's Supper. LCMS communicant members are invited to examine their faith using pages 329-330 in the hymnal and receive the Savior's body and blood. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays in lieu of wine. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. Visitors wishing to commune should see a pastor or an elder before service. We ask this because we love you.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” LSB 358, sts. 1,3,9,10,12-15

## DISMISSAL

### NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant go.  
2 All glory to the Fa - - vant ther, De All -

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the be - Gen - tiles ning, Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is -

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICAMUS

*LSB 212*

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*LSB 368*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt. Text and tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

## **“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**

Young

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. Peter C. Williamson, Associate Pastor*

**LITURGIST:** *Rev. Paul D. Sundbom, Associate Pastor*

ORGANIST: *Rod Riese*

ELDERS: 7:30am—Bob Zimmerman, Bob Moser; 9am—Dan Schwantes, Skyler Lynn

TECH: *9am—Jacob Jagodzinski*

## WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

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### TRADITIONAL/BLENDED WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—

7:30am & 9am Sunday

### CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (SLC)—

5pm Saturday & 9:15am Sunday

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- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 10:30am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:30am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

### Automated Giving Options



### MISSION & VISION STATEMENT: *Teach the Faith—Love the Lost—Connect all to Christ*



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