

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 25, 2026 - 10am

NICODEMUS VISITS JESUS

Even those who have difficulty with Jesus' message
have a place in God's story.

Welcome to worship!

The ushers are ready to assist you in any way.

Please help yourself to materials at the Family Worship Resource Table or the Child Comfort Corner at the sanctuary entrance.

Prelude

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

-Bish

Confession

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of grace and mercy, We who have seen the signs of Jesus' presence in the world still fall into doubt and despair. We put our trust in ourselves and in the powers of the world, in material goods and in finite and fallible people. In our fear we act out against our neighbors, and hurt those most in need of our help. Restore our faith, O God. Forgive us for our failings and make us one with our beloved siblings throughout creation.

Beloved, your God hears and answers, and with love and tenderness washes away all your sins. Know that you are always whole, always loved, and always held, even in your doubts and failings. Go forth with joy in this knowledge. **Amen.**

Hymn

Baptized in Water

Hymn 456

1

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

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.**

Hymn of Praise



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est;



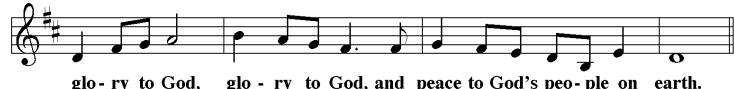
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en- ly king, al-might- y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re- ceive our prayer.

Glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God in the high - est;
glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.
I For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
Spir- it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.
Glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God in the high - est;
glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,
and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, **Life-giving God, You gave us new life when we were born of water and Spirit. Help us live into that new life, refreshed and renewed for your work. Amen.**

Welcome and Greeting

Psalm 139:13-18

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia



Gospel Lesson

John 3:1-21

The gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses

lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Sermon

| Hymn | <i>Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness</i> | Hymn 843 |
|------|--|----------|
| 1 | Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace. | |
| 2 | Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word; praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land. | |
| 3 | Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place; Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one. | |

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Ministry Announcements

Prayers of Intercession Response: hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

Offertory *Come to the Water* -Foley

Offering www.engagedbygrace.org/offering

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
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.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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-er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

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. *sit*

Communion

All baptized believers of Christ as their Savior are invited to the table. Please approach the table as you are ready.

Children are invited to receive a blessing.

You may request gluten-free bread or grape juice by raising a finger to the communion server.

Blessing *stand*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

Hymn 445

Wash, Wash O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
waterwashed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer,
Recreate us, God transform.

Prayer after Communion

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing & Dismissal

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace, together in Christ. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Chancel flowers today are given by Chris Grabenstatter- Happy Birthday to Tom!

Liturgical Ministers

Preacher & Presiding Minister: Pastor Bonnie Gerber
Minister of Music: Joshua Brodbeck

Director of Equipping Ministers: Laura Hudson
Director of Faith Formation: Noelle Fox

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