

Trinity Lutheran Church
530 4th Street NW
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 331-6579

THE CONNECTION

January 4, 2026
10:30am



The Sacrament Of The Altar will be celebrated at the 10:30 AM service. Anyone who is not yet instructed, in doubt or holds a differing confession and yet desires to receive the Sacrament, is asked first to speak with a Pastor, Elder or Worship Assistant.

--PRESERVICE SONG *“Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”*

--ANNOUNCEMENTS

--WORSHIP SONG *“Nativity Scene”*

Verse 1...In a town on a hill, on a cold winter’s day, stood a stable where livestock did stay.

With the inn rooms all full, and a manger of hay, Mary gave birth, her Infant to lay.

Chorus...How I love that Nativity scene, and God’s star shining its guiding beam. Angel choirs sang of God’s glorious dream, Son of God one and all to redeem.

Verse 2...To old Bethlehem came, shepherds from hills around, sent by angels, they looked through the town. And in swaddling clothes there, in a manger laid down, the Descendant of David they found. **Chorus**...

Verse 3...In the fullness of time, God did send forth His Son, born with our flesh and blood, He’s the one. Our redemption from sin, He this for us has won, and adoption by God is now done. **Chorus**...

Verse 4...In these days wise men still, follow heaven’s good light, God’s guidance through shadows and night. For to worship the King, the Most High is so right, here’s the reason the season is bright! **Chorus**...

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(Please stand)

INVOCATION

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

C. Amen

--CONFESSION OF SINS

P. Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C. Most merciful God, in Your kindness and love You have saved us. You've rescued us from the coldness of our sin. Yet, we still struggle to share Your warmth in our daily living. Our thoughts don't always follow Your thoughts. Our ways often stray from Your ways. We sin against not only You, but against our neighbors, as well. Forgive us, dear Lord. Wrap us securely in Your love and lead us in Your good ways. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

--FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P. Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you. As a called and ordained servant of the Lord, and on His behalf, I say to you, "You are forgiven." In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

--STATEMENT OF WHAT WE BELIEVE *"This I Believe (The Creed)"*

Verse 1...Our Father everlasting, the all creating One, God almighty.
Through Your Holy Spirit, conceiving Christ the Son, Jesus our Savior.

Chorus...

I believe in God our Father, I believe in Christ the Son.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, Our God is three in One.
I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again.
For I believe in the name of Jesus.

Verse 2... Our Judge and our Defender, suffered and
crucified, forgiveness is in You.
Descended into darkness,
You rose in glorious life, forever seated high. Chorus...

Chorus 2...

I believe in life eternal, I believe in the virgin birth.
I believe in the saints' communion and in Your holy church.
I believe in the resurrection, when Jesus comes again.
For I believe in the name of Jesus.
For I believe in the name of Jesus.

(Please sit)

--FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 60:1-6*

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
³And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of
Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

L. Here ends the first reading.

--SECOND LESSON *Ephesians 3:1-12*

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,
³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.
⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same

body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things,

(continued...)

¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

(Please stand)

--GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 2:1-12*

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L. Here ends the second reading.

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way.

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P. Here ends the reading of the Gospel.

(Please sit)

--CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *The Rev. Rudy Maurer*

--OFFERING / MESSAGE SONG “Christmas Offering”

(Luke 2:8-14; Matthew 2:1-12; Romans 12:1)

Verse 1...Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star,
while angels sang to lowly shepherds. Three wisemen seeking truth, they traveled from
afar; hoping to find the Child from Heaven. Falling on their knees, they bow before the
humble Prince of Peace.

Chorus...We bring an offering of worship to our King. No one on earth deserves the
praises that we sing. Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due.
O Lord, we bring an offering to You.

Verse 2...The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love. There is no shadow in
Your presence. No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne, before the
Holy One of heaven. It's only by Your blood and it's only through Your mercy,
Lord, we come.

Sing Chorus twice, then... O Lord, we bring an offering to You.
O Lord, we bring an offering to You. We bring an offering to You.

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--MESSAGE OF THE DAY “WHY DID THEY COME?” *(Text: Matthew 2:1-12)*
The Rev. Rudy Maurer

(Please stand)

--PRAYERS

(Sung at beginning of prayers)

“The Spirit Intercedes For Us” *(Romans 8:26)*

The Spirit intercedes for us,
With sighs too deep for words to express, oh, oh, oh.

The pastor will conclude the prayers with:
“Holy Spirit, in our weakness, help us to pray...”

(Sung at end of the prayers)

“The Spirit Intercedes For Us” *(Romans 8:26)*

The Spirit intercedes for us,
With sighs too deep for words to express, oh, oh, oh.

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P. Let us pray as our Savior taught us...

THE 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 and ever. Amen

--WORDS OF INSTITUTION

--SONGS FOR DISTRIBUTION *"Mary, Did You Know?"*

(Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 11:5)

Verse 1...Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would some day walk on water? Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your Baby Boy has come to make you new? This Child that you delivered, will soon deliver you?

Verse 2...Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy would calm a storm with His hand? Did you know that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod, that when you kiss your little Baby, you've kissed the face of God? Oh, Mary did you know...

Instrumental Interlude, then Bridge...

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap; the dumb will speak the praises of The Lamb.

Verse 3...Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation? Mary, did you know that your Baby Boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your Baby Boy was Heaven's perfect Lamb? And the sleeping Child you're holding is the great "I Am?" Mary, did you know?

“Jesus Knows Me”

Verse 1...Jesus knows me! This I love, came to earth from heaven above.
Stable's manger for a bed, there God laid His Infant head.

Chorus...Yes, God is with us! Yes, God is with us!
Yes, God is with us! God knows and loves me so!

Verse 2...Sheep and shepherds, fields and skies, angel songs
and Infant sighs, God with us this is the sign, swaddled
Baby Savior mine.

Chorus...Yes, God is with us! Yes, God is with us! Yes, God is with us!
God knows and loves me so!

Verse 3...Traveling star and gifts to pack, wise men looking up not back.
Just like them my hopes I bring, all to worship Christ the King.

Chorus...Yes, God is with us! Yes, God is with us!
Yes, God is with us! God knows and loves me so!

*Tune: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, © Public Domain; Text: JESUS KNOWS ME,
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--COMMUNION DISMISSAL

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and
preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
Depart + in peace.

--BENEDICTION

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

C. Amen.

--CLOSING SONG

“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)” *Judges 5:31; Ecclesiastes 12:4; Psalm 7:17; Isaiah 42:21;*

Verse 1...Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature
sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Verse 2...Joy to the world, the Savior reigns. Let all their songs
employ. While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

(continued...)

Chorus...Joy, unspeakable joy! An overflowing well, no tongue can tell!
Joy, unspeakable joy! It rises in my soul, never lets me go!

Verse 3...He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the
glories of His righteousness. And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and
wonders, wonders of His love. Chorus...

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P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God!

*** * * TO GOD BE THE GLORY * * ***

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