

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Epiphany / Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**  
**January 12, 2025**

*Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**\*BLESSING OF OUR CHURCH HOME**

*Greeting*

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.  
By wisdom a house is built  
and through understanding it is established;  
through knowledge its rooms are filled  
with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.  
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,  
and the life was the light of all people.  
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.  
From his fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace. (John 1:1-4, 14, 16)

## **Inscription**

*This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance: 20 † C M B † 25*

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

25 and twenty-five years ago.

† Christ, bless this house,

† and remain with us throughout the new year.

## ***Prayer of Blessing***

O God, you revealed your Son to all people

by the shining light of a star.

We pray that you bless this home and all who live here

with your gracious presence.

May your love be our inspiration,

your wisdom our guide,

your truth our light,

and your peace our benediction;

through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

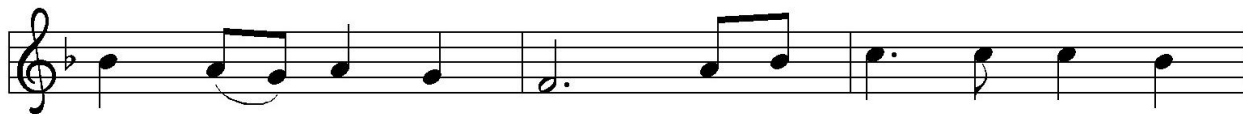
# All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

**\*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.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7**

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, “Give them up,”  
and to the south, “Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.”

A Word for God’s people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 29**

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**  
<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**  
<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**  
<sup>7</sup> The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.  
<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**  
<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”  
<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**  
<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

A reading from Acts:

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

A Word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**v. 1**

**ELW 307**

### Light Shone in Darkness

1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,  
bath - ing in beau - ty na - ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,  
cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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**\*GOSPEL – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

# Morning Has Broken

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.  
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version  
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# PRAYER REQUESTS

## PRAYER REFRAIN

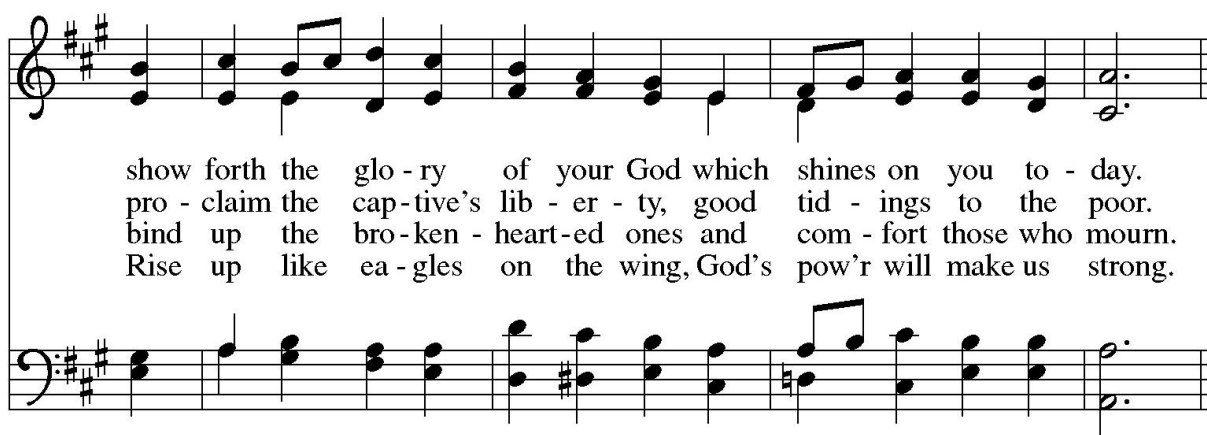
v. 1 before, v. 4 after

ELW 314

### Arise, Your Light Has Come!



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each prayer will close, God of grace. And you are invited to respond, **Receive our prayer.***

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Messiah Lutheran Church in Bay City, and their pastor, Rev. Tim Jahn. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, especially those lifted up during our prayer requests. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

**PRAYER REFRAIN**

**v. 4 after**

**ELW 314**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PEACE**

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

**OFFERING**

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,  
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service:  
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.**

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,  
now and always. Amen.**

## \* THE GREAT 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. 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:

## Light Shone in Darkness



2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;



Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,



hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**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.**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**\*COMMUNION**

*This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.*

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

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

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Nourishing God,**

**at this table you have refreshed us  
with holy gifts of food and drink.**

**Strengthen us for service,**

**and send us out to embody your good news**

**of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.**

**In the name of Christ we pray,**

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love.

**Amen.**

# Every Time I Feel the Spirit

*Refrain*

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing

in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the

spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,  
 2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,  
 3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

*Refrain*

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
 asked . . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
 chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933  
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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2055 E. Columbia Avenue**  
**Battle Creek, MI 49014**  
**269-963-5356**

**Welcome!** We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are what strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

**Our thanks** to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting with worship today:

Pastor	Rev. Kjersten Sullivan
Assisting Minister	Chase Lehman
Musician/Choir Director	Ronald Cung
Sound Board	Staff
Streaming	Travis Sullivan

**THIS WEEK AT TRINITY**  
**January 12-19, 2025**

**TODAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour | 3:30pm Swahili Worship Service

**MONDAY:**

**TUESDAY:** 1:00pm Facebook Live Bible Chat

**WEDNESDAY:** 10:30am Bible Chat | 6:45pm Choir Practice

**THURSDAY:** 11:30am Roadrunners @ Bob Evans

**FRIDAY:**

**SATURDAY:**

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour | 3:30pm Swahili Worship Service

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

**Pastor Kjersten** will be out of the office Thursday afternoon (1/16) through Tuesday (1/21). She will be back in the office on Wednesday (1/22).

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing Pastor Kjersten. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.*

January 5: Gloria – Thanks for a wonderful year filled with many blessings of family; Connie – safe travels for the Eversons and the Kolodzieizycks, family of Lee Lafluer; Janelle – Rod Tungate, Joann Hickey; Eileen – family of Judy Blackburn; St. Peter Lutheran Church and Pastor Ed Ruble (last week's prayer partner); Tish – Cindy; Jeff – Diane.

December 24: Dick – Family of John Rabonaugh; Vicky – Maya; Shaundra.

December 22: Janelle – Rod Tungate, Joann Hickey, Tracy Hickey, Eileen; Kathy – Jeff (Kathy's son); Tish, Tresa, the Anderts, Ronnie.

**SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER**

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Messiah Lutheran Church in Bay City and their pastor, Rev. Tim Jahn. Learn more about their ministry at:

<https://www.messiahlutheranbc.com/>.

Our prayer partner for next week is our mission partner congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Big Rapids. Learn more about their ministry at: <http://www.immanuelbr.com/>.