

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest.
And peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

5:00 PM

JANUARY 3,
2026

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

Tim Jordan
Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
Lonsway**
Dir. of Music

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Trinity Lutheran Church - Epiphany

3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640

January 3, 2026, 5:00 pm

HYMN SING

Jonathan Lonsway, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Arise, for light has come. The light of Christ shines in the darkness,
And the darkness has not overcome it.

Long have the shadows covered the earth—fear and doubt, division and despair.
Yet God's light breaks through, revealing hope where we least expect it.

From a distant star to a humble child, from the margins to the center,
God makes known a glory meant for all people.

Come, let us worship the God who shines in the darkness,
For in Christ, the true light has come.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #677

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;



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

Text: African American spiritual
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

SONG AFTER COMMUNION: Now, Lord

Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

BENEDICTION

May God the Father, source of all light, send you into the world with courage to follow where the light leads.

May God the Son, the light made flesh, shine in your hearts and through your lives, revealing love where it is least expected.

May God the Holy Spirit, fire and breath of God, set your faith ablaze and carry you beyond familiar paths into God's unfolding future.

And may the blessing of the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, now and always, rest upon you, guide you, and make you light for the world.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and
gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -
moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.
Refrain
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;
west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Radiant God, you sent your light into the world not to blind us, but to guide us; not to overwhelm us, but to lead us home. By the star’s glow, you drew seekers from afar, by the child’s presence, you revealed your heart. Shine upon us now. Open our eyes to your glory, our hearts to your grace, and our lives to your calling, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2–6

Page 671

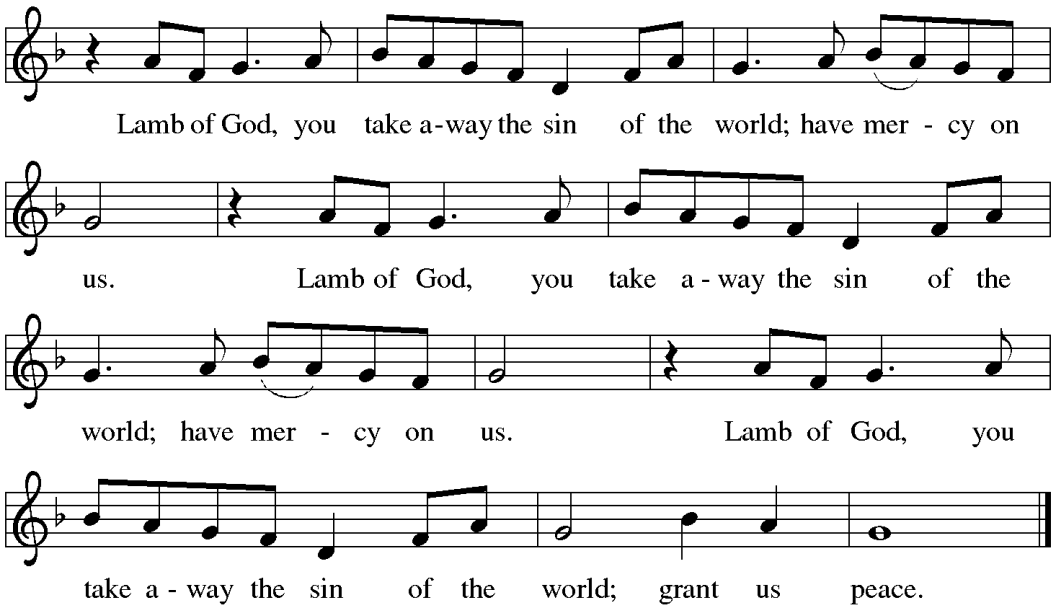
Long before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Micah spoke hope into a time of fear and uncertainty. He points not to the powerful city of Jerusalem, but to the small and overlooked town of Bethlehem, reminding us that God often chooses what seems insignificant to bring about deep and lasting peace. In these words, we hear a promise of a shepherd-king whose strength comes not from power, but from care, presence, and faithfulness.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king’s son;
- ² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the ^l hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>	ELW #294
<i>The First Noel</i>	ELW #300

OFFERING PRAYER

Giver of light and every good gift, you have revealed yourself in Christ as grace freely given, love poured out. As we bring these offerings, we offer more than what is placed before you, we offer our gratitude, our trust, and our desire to reflect your light. Take what we give and let it shine in acts of mercy, in words of hope, in lives shaped by generosity and joy. **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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD’S PRAYER

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

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,**
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
and all the nations do him service.
¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,**
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,**
and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12 Page 149

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God’s promised salvation.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 Page 2

God’s promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

After the reading:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jeff Gramza

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #279

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

APOSTLES' 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 THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Offer a sign of peace with those around you

GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERTORY