



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6*

Pastor: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

People: **and with Him is plentiful redemption.**

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

Pastor: 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**MONTHLY VERSE (Isaiah 7:14) "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."**

## SONG

**"Born in Bethlehem" #AC13 Key of C**

**Vs.1** *Baby Jesus born in a stable  
A humble Savior's birth  
You left Your throne in heaven above  
To live here on earth*

*And bow before the earth's Redeemer  
Let all voices sing*

**(Chorus)**

**Vs.2** *Baby Jesus lyin' in a manger  
Cryin' for the world  
The angels told the shepherds  
Of the good news for us all*

**Vs.4** *Baby Jesus do You know  
You'll die for all our sins  
Don't be afraid for in three days  
You will rise again  
You will rise again*

**(Chorus)**

**Chorus** *Hallelujah the King is here  
Given for all men  
For today the holy Son of God  
Is born in Bethlehem*

**Ending** *For today the holy Son of God  
Is born in Bethlehem  
Born in Bethlehem*

**Vs.3** *Come thou sinners and you saints  
All peasants and all kings*

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## THE FIRST READING

**Isaiah 7:10-17**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my

God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### SECOND READING

**Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### GOSPEL READING

**Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

### SONG OF THE DAY

**“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”**

**#AC25 Key of D**

**Vs.1** *Light of the World Treasure of Heaven  
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky  
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness  
Shine across the earth send the  
shadows to flight*

**Vs.2** *Light of the World from the beginning  
The tragedies of time were no match for  
Your love  
From great heights of glory You saw my story  
God You entered in and became one of us*

**Chorus** *Sing hallelujah Sing hallelujah  
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done  
Come and adore Him  
Bow down before Him  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World*

**Vs.3** *Light of the world crown in a manger  
Born for the cross to suffer to save  
High King of Heaven death is the poorer  
We are the richer by the price that He paid  
(Chorus)*

**Vs.4** *Light of the World soon will be coming  
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own  
Through clouds He will lead us straight  
into glory  
And there He shall reign forevermore  
forevermore  
(Chorus)*

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## MESSAGE

**ATTENDANCE /CONNECT TIME / OFFERING (Instrumental) “Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”**

*During this time, please sign the attendance book found in the pew or use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card or submit prayer requests on our app or online at [www.trinitymerrill.com/live](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/live). You can also visit our app or [www.trinitymerrill.com/give](http://www.trinitymerrill.com/give) to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity. (When filling out the attendance book – please include your last name and list the names of everyone in attendance in your family)*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & 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.

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING SONG**

**“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” #AC2 Key of D**

**Vs.1** *Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem*

**Chorus** ***Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King***

**Vs.2** *Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel*

**(Chorus)**

**Vs.3** *Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King*

**(Chorus)**

**Vs.4** *Come Desire of nations come  
Fix in us Thy humble home  
Rise the woman's conqu'ring seed  
Bruise in us the serpent's head  
Adam's likeness now efface  
Stamp Thine image in its place  
Second Adam from above  
Reinstate us in Thy love  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King*

**(Chorus)**

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**Today's radio broadcast** in loving memory of Madison Seeger & Lu Benzinger by Shawn & Laurie Schultz & family.

**The flowers on the altar today** are in loving memory of David Teske & Alvin Steffenhagen by Dawn Teske and family.

**Church Office Holiday Hours**....Please purchase your scrip and handle any church office needs before the Christmas holiday. The church office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the Christmas holiday with our families. We will also be closed January 1<sup>st</sup> for the New Year Holiday. The church staff wishes you and your family a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Men's Bible Study:** The Trinity Men's Breakfast and Bible Study resume our gatherings in the new year, with our next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 17th. We hope you'll join us then for a morning of fellowship, food, and time in God's Word.

### **RIGHT NOW MEDIA**

We are excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** taught by leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, J.D. Greear, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. You should have already received an email invitation for FREE access to RightNow Media. (If you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder.) Or Contact the Church office to receive an email invitation.

### **SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE**

Thank you!! Over the past several months we have been working on updating our sound system. We would like to thank all who helped with the update; those who drilled holes in the floors and pulled wires through the ceilings and installed the new equipment. We especially want to thank Joe Malsack for his dedicated years of service in keeping the system working so well and bringing us to this point of upgrading. We have installed, in the balcony, a new sound board, amplifier, additional speakers, as well as additional equipment for the school to be able to use the system for chapel and special programs. New equipment has been added to the praise team stage and front of church. An amplifier and additional speakers have been installed in the church to improve the overall sound in the whole church with the focus of making our radio and video broadcasts the best they can be. Our sound team continues to work out some minor bugs but have things well under control. A special thank you to Bob Schneider for organizing this entire project and to Consulting with Clarity, Colby WI, to Brian Haines, owner, who installed the new equipment and for his expertise in programming the system and to our radio, sound and video technicians who volunteer their time Sunday after Sunday to bring the word of God to our members and to the public. If you would like to be part of this exciting ministry please call the church office or talk to any of the technicians. We pray God will continue to bless Trinity's outreach to our community and surrounding area.

### **Have you purchased Scrip for the Holidays?**

**Scrip are available at all Worship Services and in the Church Office.**

This is the time of the year that scrip is most readily used. Scrip can be used to purchase all your baking and Holiday menu needs. They make great Christmas presents for those who have everything. They are wonderful stocking stuffers too. Let your loved one, friend, boss, secretary (haha) pick out what they want themselves by getting a scrip gift certificate for them. Don't wait, buy now to be assured you get the cards you want. You won't be sorry and you will be helping the church & school!!!

**Free Meal at**  
 Pine Ridge Restaurant, Merrill, WI  
 from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm  
**Free on Christmas Day. Free**

2-piece Baked Chicken  
 Dinner with  
 mashed potatoes & gravy,  
 vegetable, stuffing, and  
 coffee for the  
 first 300 people.  
**Dine in only**  
 Brought to you by:

**CARRY THE CROSS CO.**  
   **Pine Ridge Restaurant**  
 **JRS Builders of Wisconsin**  
 Licensed & Insured

## Men's Club Chili Luncheon

The Trinity Men's Club is hosting a Chili Luncheon in the church basement following the 8:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, February 1st, 2026

The meal will feature 10 varieties of chili, including Beer Chili, Pineapple Chili, Lo-Sodium Taco Chili, EX-TREME Chili, White Chicken Chili and 5 choices of mild or medium chilies. We will also have macaroni & cheese (for non chili-lovers). Beverages (milk, juice and coffee) are included in the price. Shredded cheese, raw onions, crackers, bread and desserts will be offered at no additional cost. Serving will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carry-outs will also be available.

Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids 5 through 12. The meal is free for kids under 5.



### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve Contemporary Candlelight 3:00pm Service**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight 5:00pm or 7:00pm Service**

**Christmas Day Traditional 9:30am Service**

*Our 3:00pm & 5:00pm Christmas Eve services and our 9:30am Christmas Day will be livestreamed on Facebook. Our 5:00pm service and our 9:30am Christmas Day service will be broadcast live on the radio on WJMT.*

**NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE – 6:00 PM with Communion**