

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Steven Washington, Pastor

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Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

President: Edwin Peeples

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 02, 2022

The Gift of Wisdom

As We Gather

Have you tired of those Christmas gifts yet, or are you still enjoying them? God gave Solomon the gift of wisdom. God's wisdom was a gift Solomon displayed vividly at times, but at other times, it seemed he had regifted it. In Jesus, we see the gift of God's wisdom on full display when He is found in the temple, at age 12, asking questions and providing answers beyond His years. God continues to reveal His wisdom to us through the Bible. What is your plan for connecting with God and His wisdom this year?

PREPARATION

733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past

sts. 1-3

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

- 3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

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Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

John 3:16; Titus 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 John 2:2

- P For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
C **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.**

- P This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- C **He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

Confession and Absolution

Romans 3:22b–25a, 6:23

- P For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.
- C **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
- C **O Giver of all good gifts, we come to You today acknowledging our foolishness and shortsightedness. As we live in this world, we succumb to the thinking of this world, which does not always align with Your thoughts. Amid the strains and stresses of life, we forget about Your unfailing love for us and for all in our world. For the sake of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, forgive our sins and renew us by Your love.**
- P Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, loves us dearly and blesses us with every spiritual blessing. We have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. 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.
- C **Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

WORD

Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray.

Lord God, You are the fountain and source of all wisdom. You made Solomon a wise king. Your Son demonstrated this wisdom in the temple. Grant us Your wisdom so that we may share it in our communities and throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern

your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Transfer of Membership-Mr. & Mrs. Roy and Evelyn Barber

896 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

sts. 1-3

- 1 Now greet the swiftly changing year
With joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

- 2 Remember now the Son of God
And how He shed His infant blood.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

- 3 This Jesus came to end sin's war;
This Name of names for us He bore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.

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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

P Let us go to God in prayer for ourselves, for God's people around the world, and for all people in their various circumstances.

Lord, we pray for this New Year that is here, that You continue to bless us, Your people chosen before the foundation of the world, so that we may be a blessing to others. Fill us with the wisdom of Your Word. Lead and guide our visioning, goal setting, and planning so that we have a positive impact in our world both now and for eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we pray for all who lead—in government, in the public and private sectors, and in Your Church—that they lead with Your wisdom so that the decisions they make are in line with Your will for all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we pray for all who are hurting, grieving, and struggling in their heart, soul, strength, and mind, [*especially . . .*] that they experience Your dear, sweet love for them as You lead, guide, and provide for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord, we pray for those who are beginning this year with goals to read the Bible and learn more about You, that You connect them with Your people so that, as with Philip and the Ethiopian, there is someone to help them understand the mystery of Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Individual petitions may be added.

- P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your dear love; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Offering

SACRAMENT

The Words of Our Lord

- P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Distribution

Distribution Hymns

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

sts. 1–3

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Psalm 106:1b

- P Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
C **His steadfast love endures forever.**

- P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty and omnipotent God, that You have filled us with Your forgiveness in this sacred Meal of Your Son's body and blood. In Your mercy, fill us with Your wisdom and Your grace, and lead us to love one another; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

D 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME – A warm welcome to everyone! If you are our GUEST, it is a pleasure to have you worshipping with us. **BLESSINGS!**

CONFIRMATION – We have two youth ready for confirmation as we have cleared the way with safety protocols. If you know of any other of our youth at least age 12 or in the 6th grade, please let Pastor know.

NEW MEMBERS - Today we enjoy welcoming into our membership Mr. & Mrs. Roy and Evelyn Barber. The Barbers join us by way of transfer from Holy Cross Camden.

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES – Plans are underway to resume midweek activities here at Trinity. A tentative start date for midweek Bible Study will be Wednesday, January 19th at noon. Senior Day Out tentative start date is Thursday, January 20th at 10 am. Covid protocols will be observed. Masks will be required, social distancing, vaccines etc. PLEASE, EVERYONE, WE ARE STILL OBSERVING THESE SAFEGUARDS AT OUR WEEKLY WORSHIPS. IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO IS IN OPPOSITION TO ANY OF THESE SAFEGUARDS, WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU DO **NOT** ATTEND THESE ACTIVITIES IF YOU ARE UNWILLING TO COMPLY. THANK YOU.

ELDERS – The Elder Board will meet Tuesday at 6 pm via conference call. We will use the same number as used for prayer hour.

PRAYER HOUR – Please join us each Saturday @ 11 am for prayer. Dial 1/681-999-0264; Access Code 391959#. Also, I invite you to go on our website and view our monthly newsletters and other information. On there you will also see a complete listing of prayer requests/concerns.



3^d Vivian Fleming 3^d Gary Steen

5th Larry Ishman, Jr. 5th Alfreda Murphy