



Welcome!

We are glad that you are here and hope that you will be enriched by this time of worship. In this unprecedented time, we are exploring worship in new ways and ask for your input and patience. If you are new with us today – welcome!

11223 - 51 Ave NW, Edm, AB T6H 0L5 P: 780.434.4012
church@holyspiritlutheran.ca www.holyspiritlutheran.ca
Facebook: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Twitter: @HSLutheran

Welcome

Gathering Song

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (ELW 275)

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Read by Pr. Erin T

⁷For thus says Yhwh: Sing aloud with joy for Jacob! Hail the Head of Nations! Make your praises heard, and say, ‘Yhwh, save your people, Israel’s remnant!’
⁸For I will bring them from the lands of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth—the blind and the lame will be among them, along with expectant mothers and women in labor. They will return in vast numbers. ⁹They will return weeping and praying. I will guide them in my mercy. I will lead them beside streams of water, along level ground where they will not stumble. For I am forever a mother and father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.” ¹⁰Hear the word of Yhwh, you nations, proclaim it on faraway shores: “The one who scattered Israel will gather it in, and watch over it as shepherds watch their flocks.” ¹¹For Yhwh ransomed Jacob and delivered the people from a foe stronger than they. ¹²When the people arrive they will shout for joy on Zion’s heights, radiant over God’s goodness—over the grain, wine and oil, over the young of the flocks and herds. They will flourish like well watered gardens, and sorrow will be no more. ¹³Then the young women will dance with joy, and the young men and the elderly will make merry. “I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, exchanging gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will satisfy the priests with the fat of the land, and my people their fill of the bounty,” says Yhwh.

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Pastor: Rev. Trish Schmermund (she, her, hers)
Associate Pastor: Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum (they, them, theirs)
Musician: Isaac Adams (he, him, his)

Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14

Read by Pr. Erin T

³Praised be the Maker of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens! ⁴Before the world began, God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless and to be full of love; ⁵God likewise predestined us through Christ Jesus to be adopted children—such was God’s pleasure and will—⁶that everyone might praise the glory of God’s grace which was freely bestowed on us in God’s beloved, Jesus Christ. ⁷It is in Christ and through the blood of Christ that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God’s favor ⁸given to us with perfect wisdom and understanding. ⁹God has taken pleasure in revealing the mystery of the plan through Christ, ¹⁰to be carried out in the fullness of time; namely, to bring all things—in heaven and on earth—together in Christ. ¹¹In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God—and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel—we were predestined ¹²to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ. ¹³In Christ you too were chosen. When you heard the Good News of salvation, the word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the pledge of our inheritance, the deposit paid against the full redemption of a people who are God’s own—to the praise of God’s glory.

Children's Time

Gospel Reading

John 1:[1-9]10-18

¹In the Beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God. ²The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light— a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken. ⁶Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, ⁷who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. ⁸He himself wasn’t the Light;

Council President: Toby Schneider (he, him, his)
Ministers: Every Member
Video Editor/Live Streaming: Anton Chell

he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind. ⁹The Word was coming into the world— ¹⁰was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. ¹¹Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. ¹²Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will— but born of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory— the favor and position a parent gives an only child— filled with grace, filled with truth. ¹⁵John testified by proclaiming, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.' " ¹⁶Of this One's fullness we've all had a share— gift on top of gift. ¹⁷For while the Law was given through Moses, the Gift—and the Truth— came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; it is the Only Begotten, ever at Abba's side, who has revealed God to us.

Sermon

Song

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth" (ELW 510)

The Prayers

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, let us join our hearts together in grace, as we pray for the needs of all people.

God of grace, impart wisdom and courage on the leaders of Trinity Lutheran and Holy Spirit as they continue to guide us through these times. Be with our Pastors, councils and committees as they continue to engage us in our church community and on our congregations as we continue to learn and embrace these new ways of staying connected. Creator of all,

Hear our prayer.

God of grace, impart wisdom and courage on the leaders of our nation, province, and city as they grapple with the ever-changing needs for implementing new restrictions and guidelines for the health and safety of our communities. Give them wisdom and courage to uphold justice and civility in the face of daily challenges. Creator of all,

Hear our prayer.

God of grace, impart wisdom and courage as we strive to strengthen our commitment to be a welcoming and inclusive community of faith. Give us joy as we answer your call to affirm all LGBTQ2SIA+ Children of God. Creator of all,

Hear our prayer.

God of grace, impart wisdom and courage to families, friends and professionals as they take steps, no matter how small or how big, to support children, youth and young people who may be struggling with isolation, loneliness and anxiety. We pray for all those experiencing mental health challenges, and ask you to provide them with support and encouragement through those of us who are able. Creator of all,

Hear our prayer.

As we move forward into the New Year, we ask for wisdom and courage to walk alongside those in need regarding physical health, mental health, those accessing support, and those experiencing housing and food challenges. We especially pray for: Clarence M, Tom d, Cody M, Emmitt B, Myrtle W, Ramon J, Tonia & Jason, Susan K, Tim, Charlotte, Diana M, Pr. Richard R, Muriel A, Yvonne, Eva H, Darren F, Pr. AnnE & Joel Z, Diane R, the Anderson family, Roland S, Roman W, Wayne & William, Anne L, Jaxon, Elijah P, Deborah, the Pabst family, and the family of Joseph. In a moment of silence, we also bring to you those people on our hearts today. Creator of all.

Hear our prayer.

God of grace, hear the prayers of your people and grant us wisdom, courage and joy as we seek to embody your gift of Jesus as we serve others in your name. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (by Confirmation student Nicholas M.)

O Holy Father, You bless us with life,
You give us bread and wine, We worship you.

You are the Eternal Spirit everywhere!

We forgive others, as you forgive us.

You are followed by all of creation.

Your love is never ending, evil will never burden our souls. For you reign in glory now and forever.

Amen.

Community Life

Blessing

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day through the †Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Sending Song

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (ELW 288)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

