



December 14, 2025

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad to have you worship with us this morning!

Our ultimate purpose in life is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. One of the greatest ways we can do this is to worship God corporately with God's people. At TPC we plan a worship service that is God-centered, God-directed, God-glorifying, anchored in the historical richness of tradition and is understandable by today's culture. This worship service seeks to focus on the majesty and grace of God through the use of the Scriptures, hymns (new & old), the sacraments, and prayer.

What follows is a liturgy or plan for our worship service. It seeks to tell the story of the gospel of grace. We are called by God into his presence to worship him alone. We remember the holiness and majesty of God and so we recognize our need of cleansing because of our sin. We remember the perfect provision God has made for us through Jesus Christ and his atoning death on the cross. We respond with thanksgiving. We are instructed by God through his Word. We commune with him through the Lord's Supper. And we are sent out with God's blessing.

As we worship God together through this re-enactment of the gospel, we pray that we will all grow in our knowledge of and love for the Lord, for one another, and in our desire to serve him in all we do.

Children in the service

We believe God calls us to nurture and disciple our children in the faith. One of the ways we do this is through corporate worship. So, children are welcome to be with the congregation during the entire service. A room for nursing mothers is available on the north side of the sanctuary. The foyer can be used for children who are crying or need some extra attention. There are speakers enabling you to hear the service in both locations. A nursery is available (when staffing is available) off the main hallway for children from birth through three years of age.

Standing and sitting

During parts of the service the congregation is asked to stand (indicated by the † in the bulletin). However, we understand that some are not able to stand for various reasons, and we hope that you will feel free to remain seated.

Giving

Our members and regular attenders contribute financially to the Lord's work in and through our church. Visitors should feel no obligation to give. If you do not own a Bible or know someone who does not own a Bible, please accept a free copy of the Scriptures to take with you. You can find one at the Welcome Center in the foyer.

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP OUR GOD & KING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE TO WORSHIP & WE RESPOND

†THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 2:13-15 - And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!' When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.'

†HYMN OF ADORATION & PRAISE

O Come, All Ye Faithful - #208

†INVOCATION

**WE ARE REMINDED OF OUR NEED FOR CLEANSING
& GOD'S PROVISION FOR US IN CHRIST**

ADVENT SCRIPTURE READING

CONFESSION OF SIN

Corporately

Our gracious and merciful Father in heaven, of all people, we should be filled with great joy. A joy that is not just a feeling, but a disposition, which should lead us to an ever-increasing loving obedience to your Word. So, we ask you to forgive us for our lack of joyful obedience. Forgive us for all the ways we fall short of your perfect standard. Forgive us for all of our many sins.

Silently

DECLARATION OF OUR ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Luke 2:8-11 (p. 857)

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen - #211

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE
& ARE INSTRUCTED BY HIS WORD**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Reverend Steve Johnson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:57-80 (pp. 856-857)

SERMON

The Hymns of Christmas - Sing like Zechariah
(Sermon outline available on p. 7)

Reverend Chris Harper

WE COMMUNE WITH GOD THROUGH THE LORD'S SUPPER

For further explanation of The Lord's Supper, please refer to the last page of this bulletin.

All bread is gluten-free.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WINE

†HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

What Child Is This - #213

GOD SENDS US OUT WITH HIS BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(We conclude our service recognizing that all that we have belongs to the Lord, and we give praise to the one from whom all blessings flow, including, but not limited to, our financial resources. We do not take an offering during our worship service. If you would like to give to the Lord's work you can do so in the plates in the back of the sanctuary, or through the "Giving" page on our website.)

POSTLUDE

The Hymns of Christmas - Sing like Zechariah

December 14, 2025

Luke 1:57-80

Reverend Chris Harper

I. Why Zechariah sang (5-23, 57-66)

II. What Zechariah sang (67-79)

1. God's faithfulness (67-75)

A. To his promises

(1) To David (67-71; 2 Samuel 7:16)

(2) To Abraham (72-75; Gen 12:2-3, 22:16-18)

B. To his covenant (68-75)

(1) What God has done (68-72)

(2) Why God has done it (74)

(3) The goal of what God has done (74b-75)

2. God's mercy (76-79)

A. Salvation through forgiveness of sins (77-78a)

B. Light into darkness (78b-79)

III. How we can sing like Zechariah

1. Trust in the faithfulness of the Lord

2. Serve the Lord (74-75, 79b)

3. Hope in the light that will return (78b-79a)

December Verse of the Month:

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:13-14

The entire Trinity family is encouraged to memorize the Verse of the Month together as we seek to grow in our knowledge of and love for God.v

A Big Picture View of TPC—Our Purpose-Plan-Principles

Purpose - Why does TPC exist – what is our purpose?

Our purpose is to make mature, grace-filled disciples of Christ who are growing in their knowledge and love for God, for people, and in their desire and ability to serve in the kingdom of God for God's glory.

- Matthew 28 - the great commission to the church → make disciples
- Matthew 22 - the great commandment to the church → love God and love people
- Ephesians 4 - equipping the saints for ministry and building up the body in love

Plan - How will TPC accomplish our purpose of making mature, grace-filled disciples of Christ?

(1) We plan to help people grow in knowledge and love for God by:

- having weekly worship that is God-centered, God-directed, God-glorifying; is anchored in the historical richness of tradition; is understandable by today's culture; presents the grace of God; focuses on the Word, sacraments, and prayer
- providing an education program for adults and children

(2) We plan to help people grow in knowledge and love for others by:

- encouraging gospel-centered community through small groups and fellowship opportunities

(3) We plan to help people grow in their desire and ability to serve in the kingdom of God by:

- equipping/ training people to serve inside and outside TPC
- providing opportunities for people to serve on committees and ministries inside TPC
- sending people to serve in the kingdom of God with organizations/ ministries outside TPC

Principles - What are the things most important to us?

(1) Scripture - We are committed to the inerrant Word of God, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the revelation of God's truth, and is infallible, authoritative, and trustworthy in all matters of faith and practice.

(2) Grace - We are committed to the gospel of God's amazing grace as the foundation of all we do at TPC and as the primary motivation for growing into mature disciples.

(3) Reformed Theology - We are committed to the reformed faith as it is articulated in the Westminster Confession of Faith & Catechisms and to teaching that is a warm and winsome demonstration of it.

(4) Missions - We are committed to the gospel going out into every aspect of culture, locally and globally.

(5) Discipleship - We are committed to a life-long process of growing in Christian maturity and Christ-likeness.

(6) Fellowship - We are committed to building community within the church by demonstrating God's love for us in our love for each other.

(7) Welcoming - We are committed to being a welcoming community - open and welcoming to both Christians and non-Christians - to the convinced and to the skeptic.

(8) Growing - We are committed to being a growing community - internally as members of TPC grow both numerically and in Christ-likeness and externally as we see churches planted in SE MN for God's glory.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We invite to the Lord's Table all those who are baptized disciples of Jesus Christ and are under the authority of Christ and His body, the Church. By eating the bread and drinking the wine with us as a visitor, you are acknowledging to the elders of this local church that you are in covenant with God and an active member of a congregation in which the gospel is faithfully confessed, taught, and believed. You also acknowledge that you are a sinner, without hope except in the sovereign mercy of God, and that you are trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of bread & wine. For those who prefer, grape juice is provided in the tinted cups at the center of the communion trays. If you have any questions about participating, please speak with one of the elders before or after the service.

PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be unafraid of the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is clear, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE DESIRING TO TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST

FOR THE FIRST TIME

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed. And I know that through you I am more loved & accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and providing forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord and desire to live a life of loving and serving you. Amen.

