

# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Member Parish of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod since 1908  
2200 Lee Street (in Five Points) Columbia, South Carolina

## The Holy Innocents

28 December 2025

### Schedule

9:30 AM Adult Bible Study  
10:30 AM Divine Service

### Today's Hymns

*Oh, How Blest Are They*.....LSB 679  
*When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love*.....LSB 764  
*Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band*.....(See Insert)  
*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.....LSB 621  
*The Infant Priest Was Holy Born*.....LSB 624  
*Children of the Heavenly Father*.....LSB 725  
*All My Heart Again Rejoices*.....LSB 360  
*People that in Darkness Sat*.....LSB 412

+ Psalm

Psalm 54; antiphon: v. 4

1O God, save me, | by your name,\*  
and vindicate me | by your might.

2O God, | hear my prayer;\*  
give ear to the words | of my mouth.

3For strangers have risen against me;  
ruthless men | seek my life;\*  
they do not set God be- | fore themselves.

4Behold, God is my | helper;\*  
the Lord is the upholder | of my life.

5He will return the evil to my | enemies;\*  
in your faithfulness put an | end to them.

6With a freewill offering I will sacri- | fice to you;\*  
I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for | it is good.

7For he has delivered me from every | trouble,\*  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my | enemies.

679 Oh, How Blest Are They



1 Oh, how blest are they whose toils are end - ed, Who through  
 2 We are still as in a dun-geon liv - ing, Still op -  
 3 They mean - while are in their cham-bers sleep - ing, Qui - et  
 4 Christ has wiped a - way their tears for - ev - er; They have  
 5 Come, O Christ, and loose the chains that bind us; Lead us



death have un - to God as - cend - ed! They have a - ris - en  
 pressed with sor - row and mis - giv - ing; Our un - der - tak - ings  
 and set free from all their weep - ing; No cross or sad - ness  
 that for which we still en - deav - or. By them are chant - ed  
 forth and cast this world be - hind us. With You, the A-noint-ed,



From the cares which keep us still in pris - on.  
 Are but toils and trou - bles and heart - break - ings.  
 There can hin - der their un - trou - bled glad - ness.  
 Songs that ne'er to mor - tal ears were grant - ed.  
 Finds the soul its joy and rest ap - point - ed.

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. Henry W. Longfellow, 1807–92, alt.

Tune: Johann Störls . . . Schlag- Gesang- Und Noten-Buch, 1744, Stuttgart

Text and tune: Public domain

# Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Kneel*

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## + INTROIT

*Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Revelation 7:14b*



These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

**In you, O Lord, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;\***  
**in your righteousness de- | liver me.**

For you are my rock and my | fortress;\*

and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me.

**Into your hand I commit my | spirit;\***  
**you have redeemed me, O Lord, | faithful God.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy | Spirit;\***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

## + Kyrie

*LSB 186*

**C** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis LSB 187

**P** Glory be to God on high:

**C** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**+ Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**+ OLD TESTAMENT READING.....Exodus 1:8-22**

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**+ GRADUAL**

*Psalm 71:4a, 5a, 6a, b, 8*



**Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the | wicked.\***

**For you, O Lord, | are my hope.**

**Upon you have I leaned from be- | fore my birth;\***

**you are he who took me from my | mother's womb.**

**My mouth is filled | with your praise,\***

**and with your glory | all the day.**

+ **THE EPISTLE** ..... *Revelation 14:1–5*

Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

+ **ALLELUIA AND VERSE**.....p. 190

*Psalm 116:15*



**Precious in the sight | of the Lord\*  
is the death | of his saints.**

+ **TRIPLE ALLELUIA-** page 190

**P** The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the Second chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

+ **THE HOLY GOSPEL**.....*Matthew 2:13–18*

When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.





1 When aim - less vi - o - lence takes those we love,  
 2 When pass - ing years rob sight and strength and mind  
 3 Our faith may flick - er low, and hope grow dim,  
 4 Be - cause Your Son knew ag - o - ny and loss,  
 5 Through long grief - dark - ened days help us, dear Lord,



When ran - dom death strikes child - hood's prom - ise down,  
 Yet fail to still a strong - ly beat - ing heart,  
 Yet You, O God, are with us in our pain;  
 Felt des - o - la - tion, grief and scorn and shame,  
 To trust Your grace for cour - age to en - dure,



When wrench - ing loss be - comes our dai - ly bread,  
 And grief be - comes the fab - ric of our days,  
 You grieve with us and for us day by day,  
 We know You will be with us, come what may,  
 To rest our souls in Your sup - port - ing love,



We know, O God, You leave us not a - lone.  
 Dear Lord, You do not stand from us a - part.  
 And with us, shar - ing sor - row, will re - main.  
 Your lov - ing pres - ence near, al - ways the same.  
 And find our hope with - in Your mer - cy sure.

Text: Joy F. Patterson, 1931

Tune: Alfred M. Smith, 1879–1971

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+ Sermon

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** **Amen.**

## Offertory Hymn

969 Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band



1 Sweet flow - 'rets of the mar - tyr band, Plucked by the  
2 First vic - tims for the in - car - nate Lord, A ten - der  
3 Ah, what a - vailed King Her - od's wrath? He could not  
△ 4 O Lord, the vir - gin - born, we sing E - ter - nal



ty - rant's ruth - less hand Up - on the thresh - old  
flock to feel the sword; Be - side the al - tar's  
stop the Sav - ior's path. A - lone, while oth - ers  
praise to You, our King, Whom with the Fa - ther



of the morn, Like rose - buds by a tem - pest torn;  
rud - dy ray, With palm and crown, you seemed to play.  
mur - dered lay, In safe - ty Christ is borne a - way.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.

Tune: Daniel Vetter, d. 1721

Text and tune: Public domain

## + Offering

*Stand*

+ **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

# 621 LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and  
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard  
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,  
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing  
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -  
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the  
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to  
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.  
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a - way.  
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.

Tune: French, 17th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

# Service of the Sacrament

## + Preface

LSB 194

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## + Sanctus

LSB 195

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## + 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.

**+ The Words of Our Lord**

*LSB 197*

**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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**+ Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

**+ Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

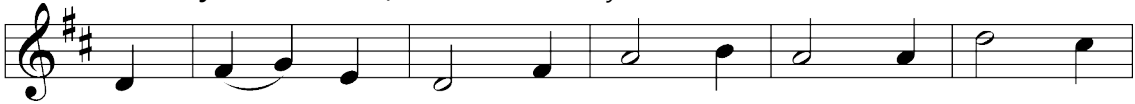
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

*Sit*

**+ Distribution**

+ **Distribution Hymn:** 624 *The Infant Priest Was Holy Born*



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -  
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con  
3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own  
4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple  
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought  
al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels  
hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.  
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.  
hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.  
Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
As at the rail on bended knee  
Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
A priestly food and priestly meat;  
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim  
Our voices join the endless hymn,  
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807

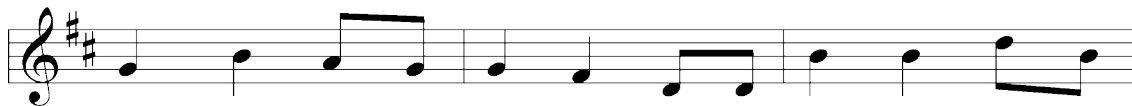
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Tune: Public domain

## 725 Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

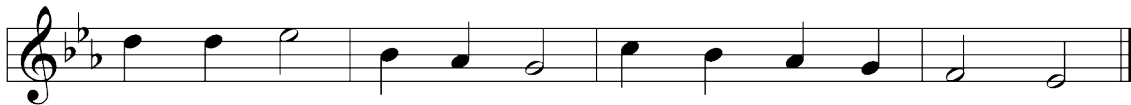
360 All My Heart Again Rejoices



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing  
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en  
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.  
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger

Jesus calls

One and all,

"You are safe from danger.

Children, from the sins that grieve you

You are freed;

All you need

I will surely give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!

One and all,

Great and small,

Come with songs of gladness.

We shall live with Him forever

There on high

In that joy

Which will vanish never.



Stand

+ Nunc Dimittis

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

+ **Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C and His mercy endureth forever.**

**A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C Amen.**

+ **Salutation**

*LSB 201*

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C And with thy spirit.**

+ **Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

**A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C Thanks be to God.**

+ **Benediction**

*LSB 202*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

☐ **Amen, amen, amen.**

412 *The People That in Darkness Sat*



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r  
Shall over all extend;  
On judgment and on justice based,  
His reign shall have no end,  
His reign shall have no end.

D 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
And make us Thine alone,  
Who with the Father ever art  
And Holy Spirit, one,  
And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749–98, alt.

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text and tune: Public domain

#### + Acknowledgments

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