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Holy Innocents

*Divine Service*

December 28, 2025

**Holy Communion** is celebrated this Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church in the glad confidence that our Lord, as His Words say, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table those who believe He is truly present, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive as He forgives us. Because Saint Paul reminds us that we can receive the Lord's Supper to our judgment, we are very careful to administer the Sacrament only to those who are properly prepared. When we receive Holy Communion, we publicly declare our agreement with the teachings of the church from which we receive it. *Therefore, if you are not yet a member of this congregation, a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and if you have not previously spoken to the Pastor about Holy Communion, please refrain from coming forward to receive Communion until you have first spoken with the Pastor.* If you cannot receive the Lord's Supper but desire a blessing, please join us at the Communion rail and cross your arms over your chest to tell the pastor of your intent.

**Opening Hymn**

*Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming*

LSB 359

**Liturgy**

p. 184

**Introit**

P: 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.

C: **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.**

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

**P:          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.**

<b>Kyrie</b>	p. 186
<b>Gloria in Excelsis</b>	p. 187
<b>Collect</b>	

**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** Jeremiah 31:15-17 (ESV)

Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.”

“There is hope for your future,” declares the LORD, “and your children shall come back to their own country.”

**Gradual**

**C:        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.**

## **Epistle**

Revelation 14:1-5 (ESV)

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.

## **Alleluia**

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## **Gospel**

Matthew 2:13-18 (ESV)

Now when they 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.*

## **Nicene Creed**

p. 191

Advent / Christmas / Epiphany			
Special Services			
Evening services begin at 7:00 p.m.			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Day Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Text</i>
12/31/25	New Year's Eve	The Name Above All Names	Luke 2:21
01/06/26	Epiphany	Joint at St. Paul — Fulda	Pastor Williams preaching