

A Midweek Devotional

ADVENT

December 10, 2025



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Historic Trinity
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While Shepherds Watched

An Historic Trinity Midweek Advent Devotional

Service Two: The Shepherd Moses

December 10, 2025

PRELUDE

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

James Engel

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Angels From the Realms of Glory"

LSB 367 v. 1-2, 4

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
Refrain
Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O Shepherd of Israel, you lead your people like a flock.

People: The law was given to us through Moses, but grace and truth have come to us through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: We are the people you care for, the flock for which you provide.
People: **You make us lie down in green pastures; you lead us beside the still waters; you restore our souls.**
Pastor: All of us were like sheep who had gone astray, turning to our own ways.
People: **You lead us in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.**
Pastor: From death you raised our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.
People: **Even in the valley of darkest shadows, your rod and staff provide comfort.**
Pastor: "Have no fear, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom."
People: **At your table we are secure; our heads are anointed, our cups overflow.**
Pastor: The Lamb at the center of the throne will be our Shepherd, to wipe away every tear from our eyes.
People: **And we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**
Pastor: The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth have come to us through Jesus Christ.

GATHERING HIS FLOCK

tune: LSB 375

♪ **He whom shepherds came beholding, In the arms of faith enfolding,
He, the universe upholding, Our Good Shepherd, Christ draws near.**

**Where the sheep are safely grazing, Shepherds, sing, your Shepherd praising,
Grateful hearts and voices raising To the Lord who cares for all.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up, O Lord, the hearts that beat within our chests. Let them pound, in steady rhythm, the strong beat of a song that prepares the world to meet and greet your only Son. Make his coming strong—strong enough to defeat our conflicts. Make his coming light—bright enough to illuminate our path through this darkened world. For he is your only Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

♪ **Gracious Shepherd, stand beside us; To green pastures gently guide us;
With your rod and staff provide us; Let your blessings still abound.**

THE FIRST READING

Joshua 22:1-5

(Love the Lord, walk in His ways)

¹ At that time Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, ² and said to them, "You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you and have obeyed my voice in all that I have commanded you. ³ You have not forsaken your brothers these many days, down to this day, but have been careful to keep the charge of the Lord your God. ⁴ And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brothers, as he promised them. Therefore turn and go to your tents in the land where your possession lies, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan. ⁵ Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSES

LSB 358 v. 6-7

♪ **How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.**

**Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.**

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:23-29a

(Waiting for Jesus was a great treasure for Moses)

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹ By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
“A Christmas Canon”

Peace Lutheran School, Shelby Twp., MI

THE GOSPEL READING

John 3:13-17

(As Moses lifted up the serpent, so Jesus would be lifted up)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd Chapter:

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God So Loved the World

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

THE HOMILY

*Rev. Ben Marsh, Associate Pastor
Shepherd's Gate Lutheran Church, Shelby Twp. MI*

OFFERTORY

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

♪ **From God our Heavenly Father A blessed Angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by Name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy**

**The shepherds at those tidings Rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding In tempest, storm and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straightway The Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy O tidings of comfort and joy.**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We continue to gather offerings utilizing the offering receptacles (one at the back of the church
and one at the Gratiot entrance in the parish hall), through the mail, and online.*



VOLUNTARY

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

John A. Behnke

THE PRAYERS

Pastor: O Shepherd of Israel, you lead your people like a flock. Come and lead us now, we pray. In order that we may not want, lead us to the green pastures of your gracious Word and to the still waters of your precious promises. In order that our faith may flourish, lift our eyes, as once you lifted those of Moses,

People: to behold the wonder of your presence in our midst and to recognize the power of your saving arm.

Pastor: Let the blood of the Lamb avail on our behalf that our sins may be forgiven and our punishment passed over.

People: Let there be peace on earth, O God. Wherever there is strife, let good will prevail.

Pastor: As you have entrusted us with your sacred Name, O Sacred Lord, send us forth at your bidding to bear that name proudly, to bear witness to it boldly, to confess it gladly, and to bring it honor by our way of life. Within the congregations of your Church,

People: send faithful shepherds to call your people with your own voice and lead them in the paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

Pastor: In the midst of the joy which surrounds us in these days, let your rod and staff comfort those who walk through dark valleys: the sick and the sorrowing, the needy and the afflicted, the hungry and the homeless, and those who wander like sheep without a shepherd. Anoint them with the oil of your compassion, and let their cups of blessing overflow. And lift our eyes, as once you lifted those of Moses and Aaron,

People: to press forward to the promised land,

Pastor: where we will be united with Moses and Miriam and Aaron,

People: and with all the faithful saints who heard your Word and did your will, trusting in your wondrous promises.

Pastor: These prayers we offer in the name of him who came to fulfill your whole and holy Word, our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

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 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.**

BENEDICTION *from Hebrews 13:20-21*

Pastor: From death God has raised our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep.

People: His sacrificial death guarantees the eternal covenant.

Pastor: May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do his will.

People: And may God, through Jesus Christ, do in us what pleases him.

Pastor: And to † Christ be the glory forever and ever.

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368

1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Refrain
 Glo - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o.

POSTLUDE

"Gloria"

Robert Buckley Farlee

Christmas at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

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|-------------|--|--------------|
| December 14 | The Third Sunday of Advent | 9am/10:30am |
| December 14 | German Christmas Service | 4pm |
| December 17 | While Shepherds Watched: <i>David</i> <i>with Immanuel Lutheran 4th grade Choir; Rev. Ben Spaulding, preaching</i> | 12pm |
| December 21 | The Fourth Sunday of Advent | 9am/10:30am |
| December 23 | The Eve of Christmas Eve | 7pm |
| December 24 | Festival of the Nativity: <i>Christmas Eve</i> | 6pm/8pm/10pm |
| December 25 | Festival of the Nativity: <i>Christmas Morn</i> | 10am |
| December 28 | The First Sunday of Christmas | 9am/10:30am |
| December 31 | The Eve of the New Year | 5pm |