advent 4th Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023 Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 2

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.
- C Amen.
- P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

C Amen.

$Silence \ for \ reflection \ and \ self-examination.$

- P Everlasting God,
- C you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.
- P Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.
- C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW HYMN 267 VERSES 1 & 2



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Advent Four:

P We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent stands for the coming of our Lord. The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall be named Emmanuel (God Is With Us). *Isaiah 7:14*

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW HYMN 267 VERSES 3 & 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD				
Hymn	Prepare the Royal Highway	ELW HYMN 264		
		VERSES 1 & 4		

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

Read by Debbie Pomeroy

A ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.



The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



P Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

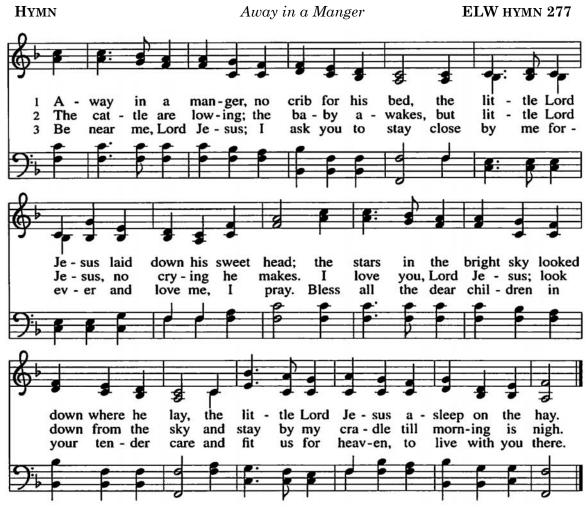
ELW 282 VERSES 1 & 4



GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 1-7

Read by Duane Pomeroy

A ¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

PR. BARBARA JONES

Р ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

PR. BARBARA JONES

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Sing ELW HYMN 270 VERSES 1 & 3 See page 10 Please stand for the final verse.



- P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

- A Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.
- A brief silence.
- A Glory to you, God, for the song of the angels, proclaiming to the world Christ's holy birth. Give your church a joyful song to sing, that we bring the good news of peace and salvation to all people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. We ask your protection for those living in areas of war. We pray for the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Ukraine, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land as they face times of conflict. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for Mary's loving care. Lead us to tend to one another in time of need. Share the comfort of your presence with all people who are alone or separated from loved ones due to illness, especially Peggy Buchholz, Naomi Walker, Linda Longren, David McGinnis, and Martha Nemeth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- A Glory to you, God, for the faithfulness of the shepherds in their vocation. Grant rest to any who feel exhausted from their work during this season: retail and restaurant workers, church musicians, administrative staff, and clergy, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for the lives we celebrate. We pray for Cindy McGinnis, Karen Arney, Brett Henry and Adeline Klamm as they celebrate their birthdays, and for Debbie Pomeroy and Janice Greenlee as they remember their baptisms. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Glory to you, God, for our partners in Christ. Today we pray for Kent Memorial Lutheran in Sunrise Beach, Missouri, First Lutheran in Topeka, and Bethany Village in Lindsborg, Kansas. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

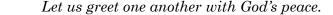
P Glory to you, God, for the multitude of the heavenly host. We rejoice in the zeal of all your saints who have witnessed the appearing of your grace, and who reveal to us your salvation for all. Hear us, O God.

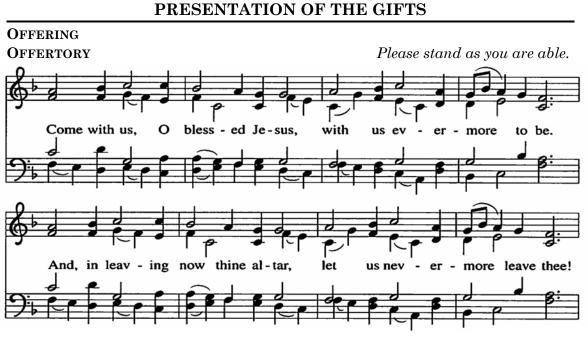
C Your mercy is great.

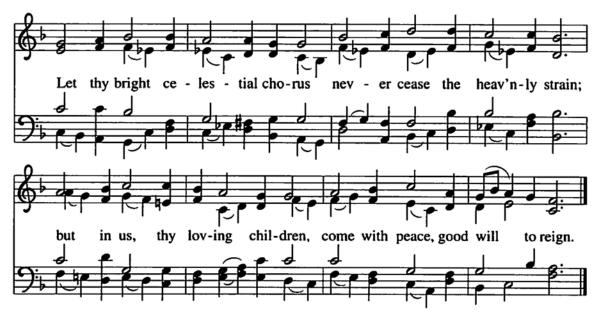
- P Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.
- C Amen.

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you. Let us





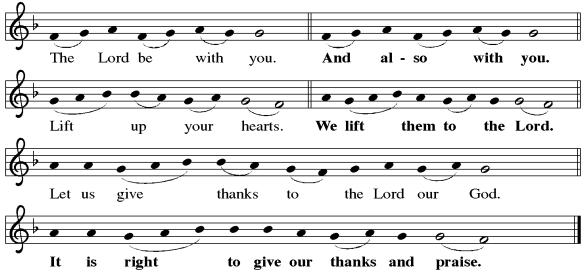


OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

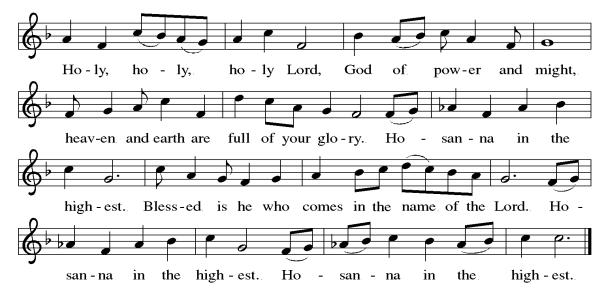
C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



¹³

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

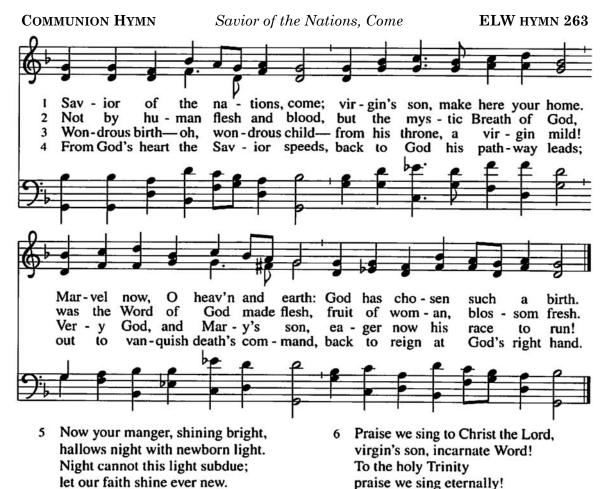
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior. *Please be seated.*

LAMB OF GOD



All are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available as an alternative to wine. Everyone is invited forward to receive communion or a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate an openness to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing. We have gluten-free communion wafers available. If gluten-free is your preference, please let the pastor know when you are at the communion rail.



Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The pastor will light a candle from the Christ Candle in the Advent wreath, and pass the light to the ushers. The ushers will bring their lit candles down the aisle, allowing the people seated at the end to light their candles and pass the light down each pew. The person with the lighted candle should always hold it upright, and the person lighting their candle from it should tip theirs toward the lighted candle.

Do not tip a lighted candle!

Music will be played by the organist during lighting of the candles. Lights will be dimmed prior to "Silent Night". HYMN Silent Night

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Lights will be turned back on at the completion of Silent Night. <u>Please carefully extinguish your candle.</u>

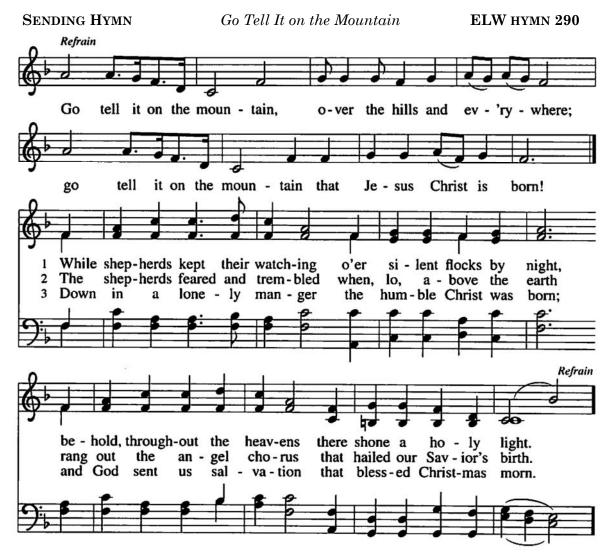


SENDING

BLESSING

P May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.



DISMISSAL

- A Glory to God in the highest!
- C Peace to God's people on earth!
- A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hosanna

Hosanna will be played as part of the postlude.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hosanna, Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord... Hosanna, Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord... Sing Hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna! Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Sing Hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna, sing hosanna! Blessed be the Son of David, He that cometh in the name of the Lord.



Welcome to worship at Trinity! Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you have found the Spirit of God in our midst.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, or have other questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 785.233.0767.

Please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall for coffee and refreshments after worship.



Poinsettias are given to the glory of God by... **Donna Allen** in memory of Ed & Alma Heckman and Johnny Allen. Mike & Shelley Andrews in honor of Nathan & Summer Andrews. Mike & Shelley Andrews in honor of Adrienne & Chance Andrews/Hutchison. Diane Bottorff in memory of my parents, Ray M. & Betty A. Bottorff. Kathy Ferguson in memory of Harold & Marilyn Hypse. Rick & Janice Greenlee in memory of our parents, Charles & Myra Sodergren. **Rick & Janice Greenlee** in memory of our mother, Colleen Greenlee. Laurie Jackson in memory of Michael M. Jackson. Bob & Pam Kobbeman in memory of Harold & Marilyn Hypse. Curt & Jane Lewis in memory of Charles & Myra Sodergren. Curt & Jane Lewis in memory of Marty & Orville Lewis. **Steve Luoma** to the glory of God. **Carol Marker** in memory of Richard Heckman. Charlotte O'Brien in honor of Don O'Brien. **Duane & Debbie Pomeroy** in honor of our family, with us and beyond us.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve
Children's Sunday School
Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion10:30 AM
Coffee Hour after worship
Mon., Dec. 25 Christmas Day
Tues., Dec. 26
Sunday, Dec. 31Worship with Holy Communion10:30 AM Coffee Hourafter worship

Dave Mareske will be with us on Sunday, December 31st, filling in for Pr. Barb.

Worship Assistants								
Date	Acolytes	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Asst. Minister	Presiding Minister	Coffee Hosts
Dec. 24	Parker Jackson	Marcy Carlson, Diane Bottorff	Laurie Jackson	Debbie Pomeroy,	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Bob Horton	Pr. Barbara Jones	Mike & Shelley Andrews, Ted Murphy
Dec. 31	Laurie Jackson	Dean McGinnis,	Mitchell Bean	Loni Reece	Pam Kobbeman & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Dave Mareske	Steve Luoma

OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS							
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly	Weekly Income Minus Average	Attendance/ Communion	
Nov. 19	\$2,820.00	\$473.00	\$3,293.00	-\$1,653.85	\$1,639.15	34/30	
Dec. 3	\$2,861.72	\$0.00	\$2,861.72	-\$1,653.85	\$1,207.87	32/34	
Dec. 10	\$1,998.00	\$20.00	\$2,018.00	-\$1,653.85	\$364.15	29/27	
Dec. 17	\$1,057.00	\$0.00	\$1,057.00	-\$1,653.85	-\$596.85	36/34	
				Expense			
		Nov. 2023	\$6,782.99	-\$13,012.53	-\$6,229.54		
		Jan Nov.	\$140,563.51	-\$141,568.29	-\$1,004.78		



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606 Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

OFFICE HOURS 10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

${f T}$ ogether in Community

Living with Christ

Caring for Neighbors

Together in Community

We are a faith community brought together to worship God and to be of service to the needs of the world as the Great Commandment is our guide in our lives (*Matthew 22:36-39, Mark 12:29-31, and Luke 10:26-27*). We are a congregation that seeks to reach all those in our county with members spread throughout Topeka area, while being rooted in Historic Old Town. In our faith, we hope to be a symbol of Christ's love in the world (*John 15:12*), to be a community of support and care (*Galatians 6:2*), and to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ came to be a Savior for all people (*Colossians 1:13-14*).

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Duane PomeroyVice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance)Secretary Diane Bottorff (Community Relations)Shelley Andrews (Administration)Pam Kobbeman (Administration)Carol Marker (Spiritual Care)Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman