

AND SUDDENLY THERE WAS WITH THE ANGEL A MULTITUDE OF
THE HEAVENLY HOST, PRAISING GOD AND SAYING,
“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST HEAVEN,
AND ON EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WHOM HE FAVORS!”

Trinity Lutheran Church



December
24
2024
Christmas Eve

Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

For a child has been
born for us, a son
given to us;
authority rests
upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

www.trinitylutherantopeka.org

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 2

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity,...steadfast love is everlasting.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

P Hear the good news and rejoice!...freed to respond in joy.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

ELW HYMN 282

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
 who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
 look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
 oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
 when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...Holy Spirit be with you all.
 C **And also with you.**

KYRIE (SPOKEN) *In peace, let us pray to the Lord* **ELW PAGE 138**

- A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 A For the peace of the whole world, ...let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 A For this holy house,...let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 C **Amen.**

Canticle of Praise *Joy To The World (all verses)* **ELW 267**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Almighty God,...now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2-7

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW HYMN 270

verses 1 & 3

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW HYMN 289

verses 1 & 2

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*

GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 1-20

SPONTANEOUS NATIVITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW HYMN 289

verse 3

- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PR. BARBARA JONES

SERMON

PR. BARBARA JONES

HYMN OF THE DAY

Away in a Manger

ELW HYMN 277

Please stand for the final verse.

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

P Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

- A Glory to God in the highest,
C and peace to God's people on earth.
- A Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.
- A Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
C Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.
- A Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
C Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.
- A Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
- A Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
C Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.
- P Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.
C Amen.

THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you. *Let us greet one another with God's peace.*

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. ...In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW PAGE 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

Please be seated.

We invite all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior to share with us in Holy Communion. Grape juice is available as an alternative to wine as well as gluten-free wafers. 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. Everyone who goes to the Altar for communion will be viewed on camera. Should you prefer not to have your image recorded, please stay in your seat and tell an usher you would like to have communion served to you in your pew.

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

The First Noel

ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4 This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5 Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. God of wonder, ...the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever

C Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

At this time the pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle and begin reading the Proclamation. The ushers will come forward, light their candles from the pastor's candle. 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. During the Proclamation, the individual candles are lit and the sanctuary lights are dimmed. Silent Night is then sung by candlelight.

Please do not tip a lighted candle!

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

SOLO

Night of Silence

VERSE 1

On verse 2, congregation joins with Silent Night (all verses)

HYMN

Silent Night

ELW 281

- 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

LITANY

P In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

C **He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.**

P What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.**
*At this time, all sanctuary lights are off, candles are extinguished, **the only light is from the lit Christ Candle.** As all focus is on the lit Christ candle, the following is read by cantor:*

A "To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.¹ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

Sanctuary lights gradually are lit.

SENDING

BLESSING

P May Christ, who by his incarnation...bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW HYMN 290

Refrain Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

C **We will! 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.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS

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

Together in Community

Living with Christ

Caring for Neighbors

Caring for Our Neighbors

Jesus commands us that when we care for the least of these; that we are in the presence of Christ (*Matthew 25:44-45*). As a congregation, we deeply care about serving those in need in our community. We hope to be a place of refuge and support for our neighborhood and to be a place to uplift those people that struggle around us. We also support ministries both local, national, and global as a church in the ELCA. As a congregation, we focus our efforts to partner with community organizations like Doorstep, while expanding opportunities to help our neighborhood through activities like our food ministry and community garden. We continue to be open to the ways that God calls us to be a presence in our community and to create a world where all are cared for in our society (*Philippians 2:4*).

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Duane Pomeroy

Vice-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