



CHRIST

*For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

LUKE 2:11

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

The Nativity of Our Lord

Candle Light Service

December 24, 2024

We Prepare For Worship

(* Please stand as able.)
Silence and Meditation

Prelude

Welcome

*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness:

P. Let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness. (Silence for self examination.)

C. Merciful God, we confess too often we find darkness more comfortable than light. We have sinned against you by not putting Christ first in our lives. We have not followed our Savior's call to love others as He has loved us. We have turned away from those you sent Him to save and the life He calls us to live. In your mercy, through Jesus' name, forgive our sins and transform our lives, dear God. Give us courage to be open to the wonder and healing of your coming, that through Christ, we receive your forgiveness and life.

P. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, hear the Good News. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it. A Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord has come into our world. And because of this truth, God has heard our confession and God has forgiven our sin.

C. Thanks be to God!

*Call To Worship:

P. Rejoice, for God is with us — Emmanuel.

C. In the darkness of our world shines God's holy light.

P. Now there is reason to hope, to love, to laugh, to live.

C. God is truly with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn 45

*Opening Prayer:

P. Let us pray. God of majesty,

C. God of majesty, on this holy night your light and life broke into the darkness of our human condition. Grant that your light and life will continue to shine through us into a dark and weary world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Welcome you to Holy Trinity: The members of Holy Trinity welcome all our worshipers and guests to our celebration of The Nativity of our Lord. We pray that you God will bless you with the joy of our Savior's birth and be strengthened to share the light of Christ that has come into our world.

We give thanks to God for everyone who helped prepare our worship space and serve as part of our worship celebration tonight!

*The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Lane & Caroline Attaway*



***The Christmas Proclamation:**

P. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P. For a child is born to us, a Son given to us.

C. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*** Christmas Blessing**

P. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

*** "Joy to the World"**

Hymn 39

- 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.

Worshippers are invited to follow the Choir as we process out of the Sanctuary with candles still lit, proclaiming to the world the joy that has entered our lives through God's love in Christ Jesus. As everyone gathers around the church steps, the pastor will close with the Sending and Charge.

***Sending and Charge:**

P: Go in peace to share the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

We depart to share the light of Christ. Candles may now be extinguished; place candles in the appropriate receptacles provided by ushers.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

God's Word Proclaimed

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L. Here ends the reading.

C. Thank be to God.

Psalm 96

¹ Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

² **Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴ **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶ **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

⁹ Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹² **let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³ before the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L. Here ends the reading.

C. Thank be to God.

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 2:1-20

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

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" [¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

L. Here ends the reading.

C. Thank be to God.

The Children's Sermon: *As the children come forward the congregation is invited to sing verse 1 of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" on p. 44 of the LBW. We will sing verse 2 as they return to their seats.*

Christmas Message

"Fear Not"

Pastor Randy Drafts

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Hymn 70

*The Nicene Creed

Page 84

*The Prayers

*The Peace

We Offer Our Gifts to God

The Offering

"Here on a Silent Night"

The Anthem

Choir

*Offertory Hymn:

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (vs. 1)

Hymn 55

*Offertory Prayer:

P. Let us pray. God of time and eternity,

C. You have given your only Son, born to Mary, to save and redeem us. Receive now these gifts that we bring and let the works of your hands proclaim the news of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

Page 88

*The Eucharistic Prayer

Page 89

*The Lord's Prayer

Page 91

Communion: *All are welcome at the Lord's Table. We receive communion at the chancel steps by Intinction. (This means you will receive the wafer and dip it into the wine before eating.) When directed by the usher, please come forward, receive the gift of our Lord and return to your seat for prayer. If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and we will gladly serve you in the pew. Children and others who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

Love Has Come (vs.1)

*Love has come a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Post Communion Blessing

*Post Communion Hymn

What Child is This?

Page 40

*Post Communion Prayer

Page 94

God Sends Us Into The World

The Candle Lighting

The Pastor lights a candle and passes the light to the worship assistants. As they come to your pew, worshippers light their candles and pass the light down their respective pew. Unlit candles are tilted to receive the flame. The lit candle is never tilted. When all the candles are lit and the lights are dimmed, the Christmas Proclamation is read.

* "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Hymn 65