

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2020



Sing, choirs of angels

WELCOME TO ALL

Welcome to worship at Trinity Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here. Even though we are spread out and wearing masks, we are delighted to gather as one people in the name of the risen Lord Jesus, in whose power over disease and death we take hope. Please use this bulletin to participate in the liturgy and take it with you when the service is ended. Don't forget to register each week on our website or by calling the office (717-263-8156) for the service that you wish to attend, so that we can maintain appropriate physical distancing in our sanctuary. If you are a guest or visitor worshipping with us and did not know to register for today's service, no problem; we have kept open some extra seating just in case. Simply plan to register for the service next week – and we do invite you to worship with us again!

Bathrooms are located down the hall from the side entrance to the sanctuary. Our nursery is not yet open, but the space is available for special use by individual families. If you visit the nursery to settle a child or change a diaper, please let one of the pastors or ushers know so that we can be sure to sanitize the room before the next service.

Ushers will dismiss worshippers at the end of the service row by row. Please wait to be dismissed, and conduct conversations and fellowship in the fresh, open air outside. We trust that as we take such precautions together, we follow our Lord's command to love our neighbor, and we help to ensure that we will be able to continue to gather for worship during the pandemic. Thank you for working with us toward that end!

Nativity of Our Lord

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Traditional Service

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.*

Please Gather Quietly

Gathering Music

Gloria McCauley, Pianist

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation responds in bold print.

PRELUDE

"The Birthday of a King"

Neidlinger/ arr. Eyer

SOLO

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Sarah Sutton

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Glo - ry to God in . . . the . . . high - est:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Love from the beginning,
Word made flesh,
Breath of heaven.
Amen.

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we are not perfect.
We have said and done things we regret.
We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.
In our fear and frailty
we have failed to trust you, and given in to despair.
Forgive us, loving God.
Give us your righteousness,
the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of + Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from guilt
so that you may now be free from fear and sadness.
God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.
Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

**you made this holy night shine
with the brightness of the true Light.**

Grant that here on earth

**we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence
and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory;**

**through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.



WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-7

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

PSALMODY

Psalm 99:1-5

We will speak the Psalm responsively.

¹The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

²**The LORD is great in Zion;
he is exalted over all the peoples.**

³Let them praise your great and awesome name.
Holy is he!

⁴**Mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice
and righteousness in Jacob.**

⁵Extol the LORD our God;
worship at his footstool.
Holy is he!



SECOND READING

Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!



ORGAN MEDITATION *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* Regent Square

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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,

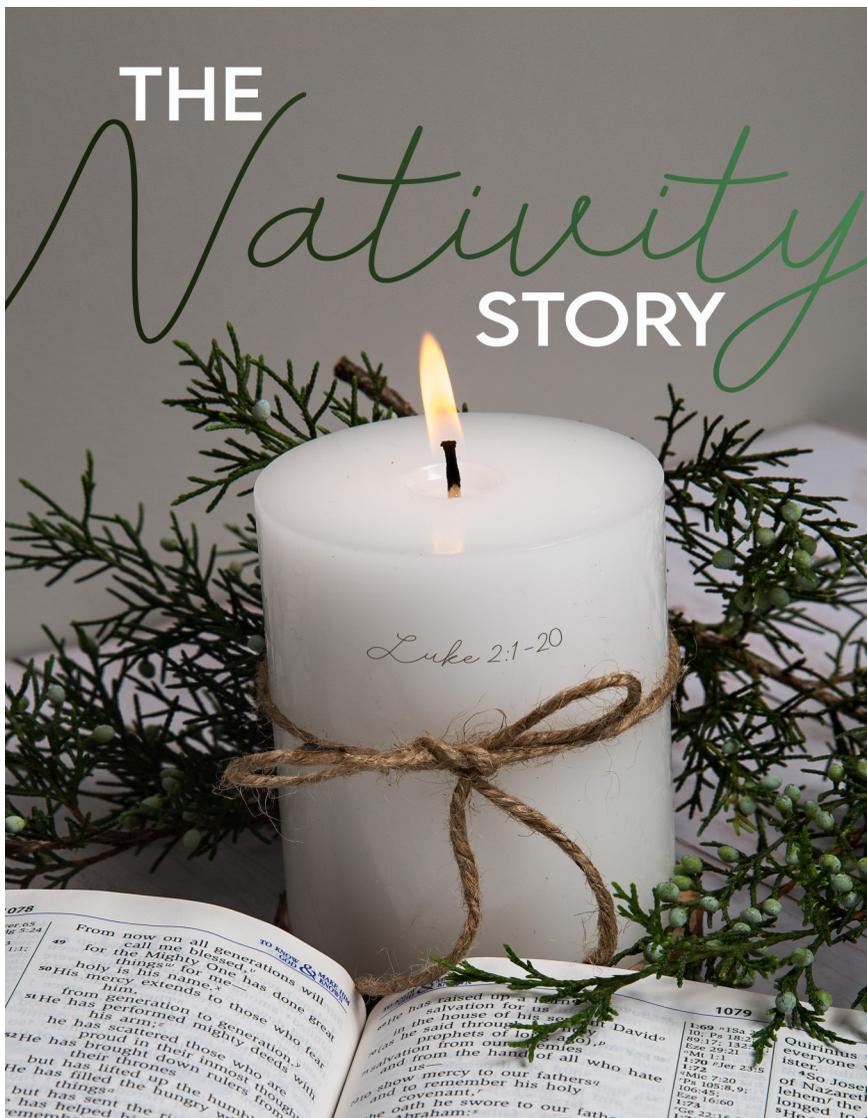
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.

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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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.



Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON *"No Gloom for Those in Anguish"*

Pastor Aaron

SPECIAL MUSIC

"All is Well"

Michael W. Smith.

Sarah Sutton, Soloist

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

The shepherds sing, “Jesus Christ is born!” Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news. When we have no words and cannot raise our own song, receive the praise of our hearts; make the work of our hands testify to your great love.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heaven and nature sing, “Joy to the world!” Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The angels sing, “Peace on earth!” Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for everyone in their care.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Continues on next page.

Mary sings melodies of comfort to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles this night. Shelter travelers and those without homes. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting, especially Scott, Jim, Dottie, Shirley, Christine, Kayla, Larry, Mary, Sherry, Linda, Tim, Cameron, Jim, Ron, Cheryl, Gillon, Jim, Becky, Bernice, Ayano, Marlene, Bertie, Heidi, Matt, Kaitlyn, Levi, Phil, Colleen, and William.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavenly chorus sings, “Glory to God in the highest!” We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Make your dwelling with us that we might join them in joyful praise around your throne.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

SENDING

THE BENEDICTION

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day † through the Word made flesh.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

POSTLUDE

"Joy To The World"

Handel

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Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

SILENT
Night

Holy NIGHT



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

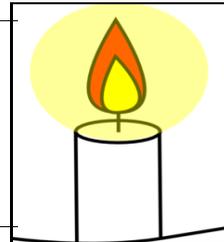
Senior Pastor	<i>Pastor Aaron</i>		
Associate Pastor	<i>Pastor Arlyn</i>		
Organist	<i>Bob Eyer</i>		
	<i>5:30 PM</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>8:30 PM</i>
Lector	<i>Lou Lerda</i>	<i>Gloria McCauley</i>	<i>Kathy Ashway</i>
Ushers	<i>Dewey Hutsler Don Lensbower Evan Sutton</i>	<i>Brenda Runshaw Ken Runshaw Evan Sutton</i>	<i>Luke Coder Lisa Coder Evan Sutton</i>
Livestream Team		<i>Jason Brown Christie Brown</i>	

*The Wreaths are given to the Glory of God and
in honor of our Loving God,
by Phillip Lobaugh & Diane Sterner.*



*Christmas Trees are given to the Glory of God and
in honor of our grandchildren: Morgana, Marcus, & Parker,
by Phillip & Colleen Lobaugh.*

*The Candles for the Christmas Eve Service
are given to the Glory of God and
in honor of our grandchildren
Santiago, Peyton, & Luisa,
by Nancy & George Glenn.*



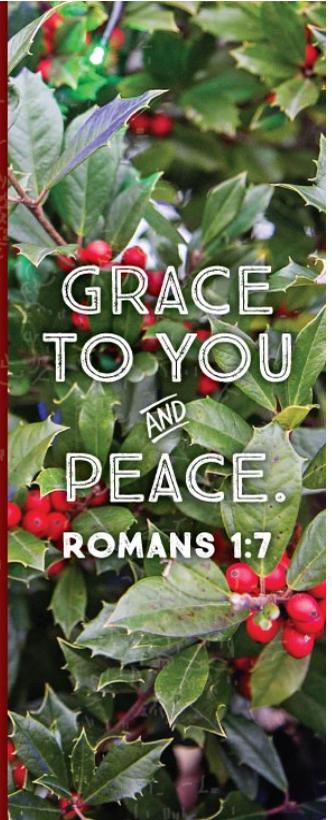


Merry Christmas

A SAVIOR IS BORN

*May the blessing of peace, joy, love and hope
be with you and your family
this Christmas Season
and throughout the New Year.*

** Staff at Trinity **





TRINITY

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Chambersburg, PA

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 Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Chambersburg

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Pastor Arlyn

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717-331-8954

TRINITY STAFF TO SERVE YOU

Senior Pastor	<i>The Rev. Dr. Aaron Smith</i>
Associate Pastor	<i>The Rev. Arlyn Rusche</i>
Visitation Pastor	<i>Ruth Smith</i>
Director of Music Ministries	<i>Robert Eyer, Jr.</i>
Office Manager	<i>Christie Brown</i>
Secretary	<i>Anne Crawford</i>
Sexton	<i>Elaine Hess-Strite</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dennis Alleman</i>
Financial Secretary	<i>Sue Derk</i>

Vision

"Growing in God"

Mission Statement

*"Seed - Planting and Growing in our Faith
Sow - Sharing the word of God with our community
Steward - Giving to all the love of God
Service - Showing the love of God with our community"*