

Trinity Lutheran Church

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve December 24, 2023 6:00 pm

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

304 E. Ferris St. Galesburg, IL 61401 *"the welcome place"*

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve December 24, 2023

Introduction

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.

+ + + GATHERING + + +

Prelude

Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Henry Gray, Tuba

arr. Matt Riley

O Come, All Ye Faithful Brady Warner, Piano arr. Amanda Tero

| Who Would Imagine a King | Mervyn Warren, Hallerin Hilton Hill |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Carina Triplett, Voice | Lynly Triplett, Piano |

Welcome, Announcements & Friendship Registries-Please Sign In.

(Stand)

Christmas Proclamation

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth

and then formed humankind in God's own image;

long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;

twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;

thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom;

eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king,

in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;

the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;

Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,

desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,

being conceived by the Holy Spirit and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother—now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

Stand facing the processional cross. Turn as the cross passes by.

Processional Hymn: ELW# 283

O Come All Ye Faithful

Greeting

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

The Lord be with you. And also with you. 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.** Lighting of the Christmas Candle by Nick Elders & Hillary Hoffman

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

Let earth receive her king!

Let every heart prepare him room!

And heaven and nature sing!

This Christmas night, we light this white candle as a visible sign that Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives and at the heart of this church.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Let us pray to our Lord who has come and is coming again: Our heavenly Father, what an indescribable gift is your Son Jesus. Through him you have given us eternal life. Today, with hearts full of gratitude and joy, we celebrate and give you thanks. Accept our offering of praise, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory Hymn of Praise: ELW# 275

(Sit)

+ + + WORD + + +

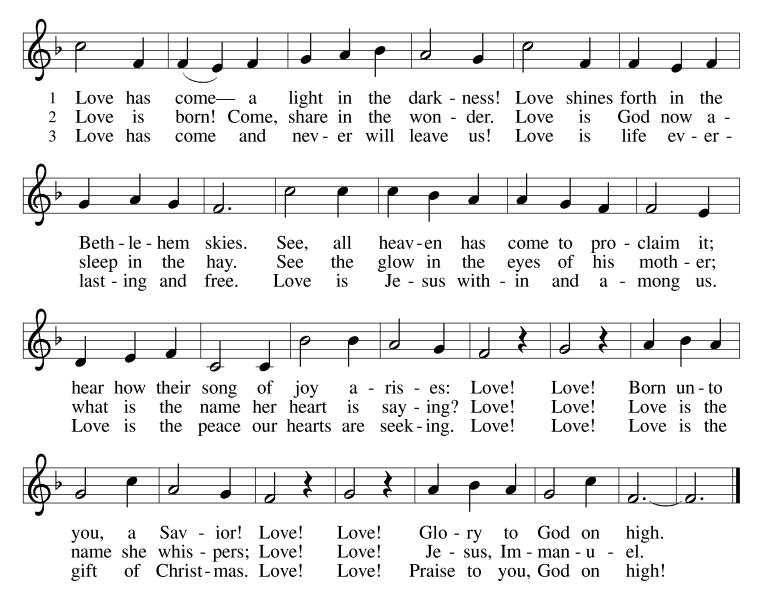
First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-

on them light has shined. You 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. For 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. His 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm ELW #292

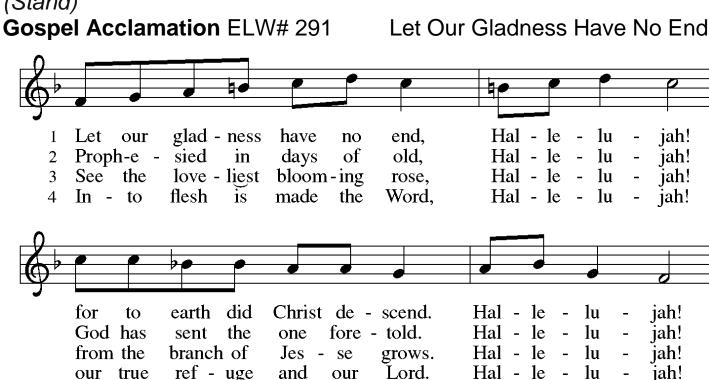


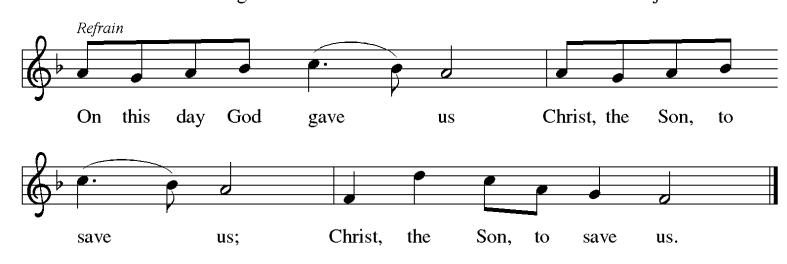
Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)





Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be

registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 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!"

[When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Sit) A Virgin Unspotted

William Billings

Vocal Quartet

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes

(Stand)

Sermon

Nicene Creed Let us join together in the confession of our faith. 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.

(Sit)

Prayers of Intercession.

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.*

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.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the stars that shine in the depth of the night. Provoke awe in our hearts at the expansive mystery of the cosmos. Open us to find beauty in the clear darkness of night and in the first glimmers of dawn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Glory to you, God, for the child born to us who establishes a kingdom of justice and righteousness. Break bonds of oppression, bring reconciliation to warring lands, and establish peace from this time onward and forevermore. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 tonight who are alone or separated from loved ones due to estrangement, incarceration, or illness especially, Dena, Bev, Annie, Donna, and Sherry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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, organizers of charitable-giving events, and service workers doing essential tasks. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.

Your mercy is great.

We offer to you these prayers as well as those we now name to you either aloud or in our hearts. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

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

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Offering Song Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day Je Senior Choir

John Gardner

(Stand)

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Christ taught us

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

All are welcome to receive communion at Trinity Lutheran Church. If you wish to receive you may come forward as dismissed by the usher and will be given a wafer in the center aisle. Then you may take a small cup from the tray. Red wine is along the outside, and white grape juice is located in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is also available. Place empty cups in the bowls located at the side aisle as you return to your pew. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than communion, you may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest as you come forward.

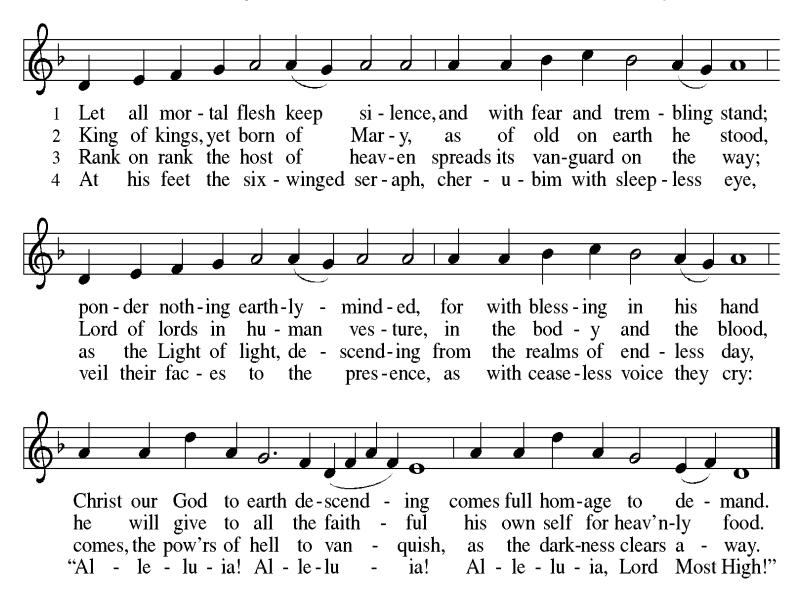
(Sit)

Distribution of Communion

What Child Is This

Janet Linker

Post Communion Hymn ELW #490 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent



(Stand) Prayer After Communion

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ + + SENDING + + +

Blessing

God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

+ + + Candle Lighting + + +

During the hymns, acolytes will begin distributing light. The acolytes will come down the center aisle, lighting the candles of the first person in each pew. As you receive the light, please allow your neighbor to light their candle from yours. When lighting candles, **please hold the lit candle straight, and tip the unlit candle towards it.** Following Silent Night, you may blow out the candle. Baskets will be available as you leave to collect the candles.

Sending Songs

ELW #279

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v.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.

ELW #277

Away in a Manger (v.1)

What Child is This (v.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.

ELW#296

What child is this, who, laid to rest,

on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

ELW#281

- 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.

Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. Thanks be to God. Silent Night

As you leave, please take a moment and greet one another.

Worship Participants

Audio: Norm Tippey Video: Brady Warner Usher: Layton & Nancy Sandall, Linda Tippey Communion Setup: Hillary Hoffman Assisting Minister: Sarah Brakenbury Reader: Sandra Gray Wine Server: Marilyn Gehring, Lisa Shafer **Closing Duties: Grant Robinson** Acolyte: Nick Elders Christmas Candle Lighting: Nick Elders & Hillary Hoffman **Organist: Bette Mohr Director of Choirs: James Hutchings** Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes Special Music: Henry Gray-Tuba, Brady Warner-Piano, Carina Triplett-Voice, Lynly Triplett-Piano Vocal Quartet- Sarah Brakenbury, Nick Elders, Hillary Hoffman, James **Hutchings**



John McClean and Family donated today's Altar Flowers, *in loving memory of Sarah McClean*

Tonight's Radio Broadcast is sponsored In loving memory of Our daughter Kate and Our parents. Christmas Blessings to All.



Announcements

The Office is Closed on Monday, December 25th for Christmas

Join us on December 31st for a Lessons & Carols Service There will be no sermon or communion

The last Deposit of the Year is Saturday, December 30, 2023.

All annual reports of committees and organizations must be submitted to the church office NO later than January 8th.

Choir Practice - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, resuming January 10th

Bell Choir Practice will re-start at 11 am on Sunday, January 14th

Prayers: If you need prayer for yourself or a loved one, please fill out the salmon-colored slips in the Narthex and drop them into the collection plate.

Current Prayer List:

| Dena Garrison | Prayers for peace & comfort |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (daughter of Hilma McDorman) | |
| Sherry Glas | Prayers for comfort & health |
| Bev Powell | Prayers for healing & recovery |
| Annie Maier | Prayers for healing (surgery) |
| Donna | Prayers for comfort & peace |
| | (cancer) |

Rev. Dr. Carrie Carnes, Pastor, Out-of-office: Friday Cell phone: 618-803-8778 Church Office: Phone 309-343-4191 Hours 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday 1st & 3rd Saturdays, Worship at 5:00 pm, Holy Communion Sunday Worship at 9:30 am; Holy Communion Sunday; Facebook Radio Ministry at 9:30 am on WRAM – 1330 AM www.trinitygalesburg.org trinitylutheran@trinitygalesburg.org

Vision Statement Developing Disciples – Connecting to Christ

Mission Statement

Led by the Spirit, we receive Christ's love, share God's forgiving grace, and reach out to welcome, encourage and serve all.

Welcome Statement

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church are freed by the Gospel to seek reconciliation and wholeness in a world that is frequently an unloving place. We extend welcome to all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, whether believer, doubter, or seeker. In Christ's love we invite you, so that led by the power of the Holy Spirit we will join together to strive for racial equity, justice, peace and love in all the earth.

Our Guiding Principles

Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.
 We faithfully worship through Word and Sacrament.
 We invite and welcome everyone.
 We engage all generations in education and ministry.
 We serve local and global communities.

Bonnie Campbell

Bruce, Denise Foote, & Family

Heather Hellenga

John & Wilma Hessler

Ted, Hillary Hoffman, & Family LaMae Icenogle, & Mark & Lori Chezem Crystal Johnson

Kristy Johnson

JoAnn Lakis

Dan & Mary Lou Lindberg

Janis Wright Meyers

Janet Page

Brenda Patterson Layton & Nancy Sandall Anna & Lisa Shafer

Tom & Marcy Simkins

Dave & Carol Simpson Jolynn Wahl

Mike, Julie, Joe, Maggie, Stella, & Penelope Wiegand In loving memory of

CHRISTMAS MEMORIA

Trinity Lutheran Church

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In Honor of

Lester & Erma Peterson, Johnny Peterson, & Danny Campbell Family

Robert & Virginia Hellenga, Marjorie Hellenga, & John & Carolyn Noonan Carl & Anna Hessler, Earl & Jennie Reynolds, & Junior Reynolds & Barbara Knees Earl & Frances Hoffman, & Warren & Virginia Hosler Loved Ones

Marlene Zimmerman

Steve Johnson, & Max & Joan Boynton Loved Ones

Loved Ones

Shirley & Gladys Wright

Parents & Grandparents

Family & Friends

All of our Loved Ones

Jim Shafer

Jack & Shirley Simkins, David & Mary Sue Youngren, & Kenneth & Marian Wright Our beloved Masden & Simpson parents Laura Zidlicky & Margaret Wahl & Family Helen, John, & Margaret Wilds, Jim Rita, Joe, & John Wiegand, & Jane Tibita, & Dominic Othieno Kim Eun Jung & Song Young Kook