

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

9:00 P.M.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS

WELCOME TO ALL

*The people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church wish to extend a special welcome to all visitors!
Please leave your name and phone number on the visitor card found in the pew.*

*We are committed to the inclusion of all people, with no exception. Therefore, we practice **open communion**, welcoming all to the table to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

Children are full participants in this congregation's worship, educational, and community life! The Mary Martha Room is a quiet space for infants needing to nurse or to nap. For active toddlers, the Community Room has a Children's Corner with books and a table at which to play. Our ushers are ready to assist you in finding the place that best fits your family's needs.

***Accessible and all-gender restrooms** are located in the basement.*

***Single-use, all-gender restrooms** are located on the 1st floor.*

*For over forty years, this congregation has advocated for the **full welcome, inclusion, and equity** of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the church and the community. We invite all people into lives of authenticity, integrity, and wholeness.*

***Hearing assist devices and large-print bulletins** are available. Ask an usher if you are interested.*

*If you are seeking **pastoral care**, please speak to a pastor today.*

+invites the congregation to stand

The cover art for today's bulletin is provided by Bea Martin. Thank you, Bea!

GATHER

PRELUDE

Noël Grand Jeu et Duo
Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen
Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her

Louis-Claude Daquin
Johannes Brahms
J. S. Bach

CHRISTMAS INTROIT

Hodie Christus natus est

Plainson, Mode I

Hodie Christus natus est:
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia.

Christ is born today:
Today the Savior appeared:
Today on earth angels and archangels sing:
Today the righteous rejoice saying:
Gloria to God in the highest, alleluia.

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages after the world was created,
when God, in the beginning, formed the heavens and the earth;
long after the great Flood, when God made a rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant;
some two thousand years after the birth of Abraham and Sarah;
fifteen centuries after Miriam sang her song;
eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;
a thousand years after the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
in the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of Octavian Augustus' rule;
in the sixth age of the world, all the earth being at peace;
Jesus Christ, Eternal God, Child of the Most High,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born to Mary in Bethlehem of Judea;

God made flesh.

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Please stand and face the cross at the rear of the sanctuary.



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.



+PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of rough hands and hardened feet, giving spirit to the people of earth: in agony of birth and gentleness of newborn skin, may we discover your ordinary beauty in the heart of our longing world; through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh—God’s divine embrace.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WELCOME

WORD

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

RESPONSE

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Choir: O dearest Child, whom I adore, Whose grace surpasses measure,
My brother, whom I cherish more Than earth with all its treasure:
Haste from thy manger to depart, O come and dwell within my heart;
With joy will I receive thee, A cradle there will give thee.

Break forth, O beau-teous heav'n-ly light, And ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye

shep-herds, shrink not with af-fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This

Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi - dence and joy shall be, The

pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.

READING

Titus 2:11-14

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

+GOSPEL PROCESSION

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?

and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o;

glo - - - - ri a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

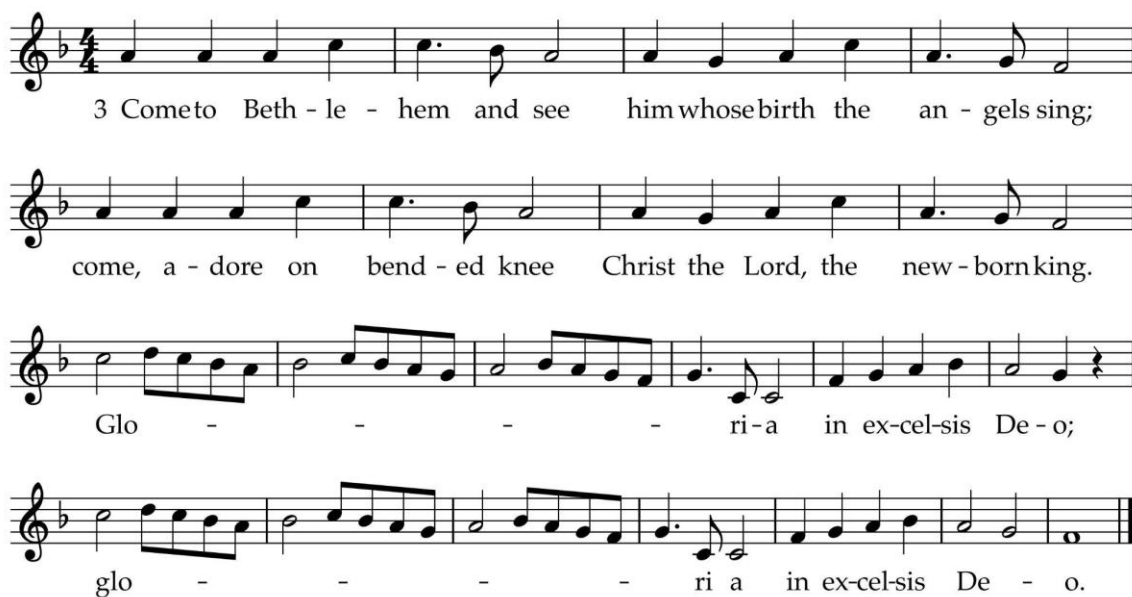
+GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-20

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

+GOSPEL RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard on High



3 Cometo Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.
Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o;
glo - - - - ri a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

SERMON

+HYMN OF THE DAY

Love Has Come

Please stand at the conclusion of the organ introduction to the hymn.



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

(silence)

God of the Incarnation, we come before you tonight, O God, knowing we need to be fed with the promise of hope that was the gift of Isaiah to his heavens and that is the promise embodied in the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. Give us the eyes to see what the shepherds saw and the ears to hear once again the angels' song. Compassionate God,

Hear our prayer.

God of the Incarnation, we need tonight to be fed with the courage of the angels' song—"Do not be afraid." Instill in us the awareness of your overwhelming love for us that casts out fear and brings your continuing presence. Compassionate God,

Hear our prayer.

God of the Incarnation, we need to be fed tonight with the faith to see in the Bethlehem birth the new beginning that Jesus embodies. We need an injection of courage so that we do not lose heart, succumb to hopelessness, or become overwhelmed with despair in these distressing times. Compassionate God,

Hear our prayer.

God of the Incarnation, we cry out to you amid the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land, the birthplace of Jesus. Be with all your beloved children suffering under the weight of war and bring your peace. Compassionate God,

Hear our prayer.

God of the Incarnation, above all we need to remember that a little child will lead us, both the child born in Bethlehem and the children among us whose eyes can approach the manger with the awe, the wonder, and the excitement that it invites. Compassionate God,

Hear our prayer.

God of the Incarnation, we lift up before you this night the members and friends of this congregation whose personal situations are challenging. Be with Gerry Berglin; Mary Heltsley's nephew Michael Frey; Caren Hiatt's sister-in-law, Shannon; Annie Hines's son Nick; Joyce Hanson; Arnie Johanson; Katie Schroeder's mom, Diane; Dorothy Kelly; Cori Gershon; and those we name now, either silently or aloud (*the congregation may name loved ones in need of God's care*). Compassionate God,

Hear our prayer.

Abide with us, O Immanuel, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.
Amen.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING ANTHEM

Good Christian Friends
Adult Choir

German melody, 14th cent.
arr. David Sims

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
O give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

+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.

Electric candles can be lit by turning the flame. Worship leaders will come to the aisles to light your wax candles. When lighting wax candles, please tip only the unlit candle.

+HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first line of the hymn, the second system covers the second line, the third system covers the third line, and the fourth system covers the fourth line. The piano accompaniment features a simple, elegant melody in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

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
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Please take care when extinguishing your candles.

+PEACE

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

You are invited to exchange words and signs of friendship and love with those around you.

+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, we raise our voices with saints and angels and all creation in joyful praise to your holy name:

+SANCTUS

Communion servers are invited to come forward at this time.



On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to hear the news the
an - gels bring. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to
hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together:

**Our Creator, Our Mother, 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.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION INVITATION

All are welcome at the table. This is Christ's table where no one is a stranger.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

*Communion is served by intinction.
Upon receiving the bread, dip it into the divided chalice which contains
both red wine and white grape juice.
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request to the server.
All are welcome at the table.*

If you wish to receive communion from a pastor in your pew, please let an usher know.

ANTHEM

*A Maiden Most Gentle
Adult Choir*

Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing: Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King. Ave Maria.

How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild. Ave Maria.

The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call The Lord of creation, and Savior of all. Ave Maria.

Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,
And marveled in awe at the babe in her care. Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray; Sing praise to the Savior, sing endless 'Ave'. Ave Maria.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

+BLESSING

The body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

+POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

+HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O come, ye, O
The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal, born of a
Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye
Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus, to

come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him,
vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; Son of the Fa - ther
cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove! Glo - ry to God . . .
thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n! Word of the Fa - ther,

born the king of an - gels:
now in flesh ap - pear - ing! O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
in . . . the . . . high - est:
now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

+BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

+DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

On Christmas, Rejoice

P. Radtke

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2730 East 31st Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406

612-729-8358 ☒ htlcmpls.org

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

	9:00 PM
Preacher	Doug Mork
Presiding Ministers	Ingrid Rasmussen, David Larson-Martínez
Crucifer	
Ushers	Sally and David Kohlstedt,
Assisting Minister	
Altar Guild	Doris Gbala
Communion	Dennis O'Brien, Tom Skold
Closer	John Sulzbach

STAFF

Ingrid Rasmussen, *Lead Pastor*

David Larson-Martínez, *Associate Pastor*

Doug Mork, *Part-time Associate Pastor*

Kathy Ekwall, *Communications &
Congregational Coordinator*

Nolan Gusdal, *Building Maintenance*

Phil Radtke, *Cantor*

Kaia Ellis, *Financial Administrator*

STAFF, CONTINUED

Sue Roberts, *Publications Coordinator*

Erik Gerhardt, *Accompanist*

Dennis Nordholm, *Custodian*

Dana Simms, *Custodian*

Logan Olson, *Gloria Ringers Director*

LEADERSHIP

Allison Johnson Heist, *Council President*

Gretchen Lund, *Council Vice President*

Erin Henry, *Council Secretary*

Katie Schroeder, *Treasurer*

"Once in Royal David's City" Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895. Music: IRBY, Henry Ja. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

"Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light" Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000. Music: Johann Schop, 1590-1664; harm. J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

"Angels We Have Heard on High" Text: French carol; tr. H.F.Hemy, "The Crown of Jesus Music," 1864,
Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German Carol, 14th cent.

"Silent Night, Holy Night!" Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885. Music: SILLE NACHT Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

"On Christmas Night" Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English Traditional
"Love Has Come" Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950. Music: UN FLAMBEAU, G. Seguin, 'Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale', 1856
Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), % Integrity Media, Inc.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894. Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts.1,3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

Artwork: Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Nativity with Women Attending, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley.

P A R I S H I N F O R M A T I O N

MAKE YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS

We invite you to plan for and make your final contributions for the current fiscal year at this time. Please allow for additional processing time with consideration to the holiday season if you are anticipating requesting funds from retirement accounts. This will give us all adequate time to deposit and post gifts before the close of the tax year and also get year-end statements out to you in a timely manner. Thank you so much for all you share with Holy Trinity!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH WEDNESDAY CHOIR FAMILY MEALS

Volunteers should plan to make enough food for at least 12 children and 8 adults. Usually 4-8 people request vegetarian options. You may use the church kitchen if you prefer. Please be ready to serve by 5:00 p.m. Supper starts at 5:00 p.m. and wraps up at 6:30 p.m. We are happy to reimburse you for everything! Simply submit your receipts to Pastor David. A sign-up sheet with more information is available in the Community Room.

SAVE THE DATE FOR MICRO-AGGRESSION/INCLUSION WORKSHOP JANUARY 13

On Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., there will be one more workshop on micro-aggressions and micro-inclusions at Holy Trinity led by Joe Davis and David Scherer. This event is both for those who attended the workshops in the fall of 2022 and 2023 and for those who are new participants. There will be a brief review of the earlier workshops and then new material that explores racial microaggressions. As in the past, Joe and David make this learning event both deeply meaningful and fun. Sign-up in the Community Room or email your interest to Libby Olstad (libbyolstad@icloud.com).

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 11:00 A.M.

On Sunday, January 28, 2024, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch and the Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m. All are invited to the gym as we celebrate the 120th year of God's ministry through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We will review committee goals, elect new council members, and approve the 2024 budget. The annual meeting is also an opportunity for us to check on our progress made toward congregational goals.

CHANGES TO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

- Sunday, December 31, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, January 28, we will have one service only at 10:00 a.m., followed by lunch and the Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Poinsettias in the chancel area were given in loving memory or honor of

Parents, by David & Carol Berg

Loved ones, by Joyce Peterson

Paul Eid, who spent many Christmas seasons producing beautiful church choir concerts,

by Lois Eid

Loved ones, by Pat Lundquist

Violet Wells, by the Wells Family

John Kelly, by Carol Kelly

Pamela, by David Rediger

Ralph and Joyce Schenk, by Carol Johnson

Hugh Parks, Ron Peterson, and Bud & Sylvia Diken, by Sally Parks

**Cathy Skalnican, Ed and Helen Opila, Alice Opila, Rita and Jim Higgins, Mike Higgins,
and Cindy Malm**, by Mary Opila and Marge Higgins

All the children suffering from war, by Michael and Marilyn Miller

Lila Meyer, by Anna Brelje

Nathalie Johnson, by Tony Parsons

Steve Padgitt, by Noelle, Shaun, and Simon Morrell

Parents, by Bev and Bob Peschiutta

Sister, Marlyce, by Bev Peschiutta

Los abuelos and Los padres, by the Martinez family

Linda Gawthrop, by Rosemary Foley

Kathy Morgen, by Barbara and Steven Benson

Husband Del Anderson and sister & brother-in-law Marge and Shelly Torgerson,
by Betty Anderson

Jason SantaAna-White, by Ann White