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**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**

**WELCOME TO TRINITY!**

Thank you for worshipingwith us today. We want to know who you are, so please provide your contact information in the Friendship Book as it is passed during the Offertory. If you are visiting, honor us by signing the Guest Register in the Narthex.

There are times in our worship service where we stand or kneel. Feel free to participate in either as you are able or feel comfortable to remain seated.

Please ask an usher should you require a hearing assistance device.

(†) ~ Those who wish may make the sign of the Cross in remembrance of their Baptism.

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYER**

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a Blue Card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. Prayer requests may also be emailed to [trinityoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:trinityoffice@bellsouth.net) or to pastorjeffwebb@yahoo.com.

**FOR PARENTS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

We are delighted that you have brought your child to worship! We invite you to use the Cry Room as a courtesy to others if your little one gets a little rambunctious. Our Cry Room, complete with seating and children's activities, is located at the back of the Sanctuary. The service can be heard through the sound system. We hope your children feel glad they were here and that they are a part of the Trinity family!

***Our Vision:***

***Growing in God’s Word to Share Christ’s Love***

***Our Mission:***

***Led by God, equipped as disciples through Word and Sacrament,***

***we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all.***



**AS WE GATHER TODAY**

One of the great pleasures of the Advent and Christmas season is the singing of hymns and carols associated with the nativity of our Lord. Many of the texts of these well-loved songs were written specifically for services in the Christmas season; others were not. “Silent Night, Holy Night” (*LSB* 363) was written to be first sung at a Christmas Eve service in Austria in 1818, and “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (*LSB* 361) was initially included as part of a children’s Christmas program at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia in 1868. But another well-loved hymn associated with Christmas was not originally a Christmas song. “Joy to the World” (*LSB* 387) was written as a paraphrase of the second half of Psalm 98 by the English hymnwriter Isaac Watts in 1719. When the text was printed as part of a collection of Psalms in English verse, he gave the song the heading “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.” Our celebration of the coming to earth of Jesus as our Messiah and Lord gives us a great “resounding joy” that lasts all through our years as we await the fullness of His kingdom yet to come!

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**The Song of the Angels**

*Please Stand*

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN 379** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *Trumpet, Ben Baneck*

*(vv. 1-2: all; vv. 3: men; v. 4: women)*

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**INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 34:1–3, 5, 7, 22*

Pastor: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**People: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**

Pastor: Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together!

**People: Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.**

Pastor: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

**People: The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Galatians 4:4–5*

Pastor: Let us go to our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to walk always in the paths of righteousness in our thinking, speaking, and acting; we have not loved You completely or our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to live as sisters and brothers of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, whose birth we celebrate this day. In Your great mercy, forgive and renew us that we may be servants of our eternal king to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: God has heard our plea and has responded to our need. “God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.”

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**✠ WORD ✠**

**HYMN OF PRAISE 368** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

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**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
Gracious God, on this blessed day, we celebrate our Lord’s birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. With the company of song-filled angels in heaven and jubilant people on earth, we welcome Jesus as the Savior of the world and Lord of our hearts, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 9:2–7* (We see a great light.)

The people who walked in darkness  
 have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
 on them has light shined.  
You 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.  
For 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.  
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
 and every garment rolled in blood  
 will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For 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.  
Of 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Titus 2:11–14* (The grace of God has appeared.)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-20 (The birth of Jesus Christ)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And 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.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,  
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When 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.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Be Seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY 380** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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**SERMON**

*Please Stand*

**CREED** *Nicene Creed*

**People: I believe in one God,  
 the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth  
 and of all things visible and invisible.  
  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
 God of God, Light of Light,  
 very God of very God,  
 begotten, not made,  
 being of one substance with the Father,  
 by whom all things were made;  
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
 and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
 He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.  
  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Kneel or Be Seated*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray.

As You did with Mary and Joseph, so make Your home in our human lives and hearts. As Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to Judea, lead us wherever we may help to carry out Your plan for humankind. As Mary brought into this world “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel,” so enable us, too, to bring Your peace to desperate people.

Grant that all who see our worship of the newborn babe wonder at the way we keep this day. And O Bethlehem’s royal prince, let there be some who, because of us, ponder these things deep within their hearts.

We praise You, the sun of righteousness, who has risen with healing in Your wings; we praise You now and evermore.

**People: Amen.**

*Be Seated*

**OFFERING** *(Please fill out and pass the red Friendship Book at this time; and fill out the blue card in the pew rack for prayers.)*

*Please Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

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*Be Seated*

**CANDLELIGHTING**

*The Pastor takes the light from the Christ Candle and passes it to the ushers. They pass the light to the congregation. Tip only the unlighted candle.*

**HYMN 363** “Silent Night, Holy Night”

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**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the X Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you, now and forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN 388** “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

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*Please extinguish candles.*

**POSTLUDE** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” *Trumpet, Ben Baneck*

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of God

by the Altar Guild and the Congregation.

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

***Luke 2:11***

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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Prayer of the Church adapted from *Prayers for Worship: Prayers of the Church for Every Sunday*, Arnold G. Kuntz, © 1993 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

**Christmas Eve:** 5:00pm & 7:00pm (Communion)

**Christmas Day:** 10:00am (Communion)

**POINSETTIAS**

Thank you to everyonewho donated poinsettias to decorate the beautiful Altar:

**THOSE WHO GAVE IN CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

John Anander, Cindy Baldwin, Carol Beard, Cathy Crotwell, Barbara Duch, Jacob & Shelby Johnson, Sherry Kreger, Kevin & Lisa Riedl, Renee Tindall

**THOSE WHO GAVE IN LOVING MEMORY or IN HONOR OF SOMEONE**

John Anander in memory of Harry Anander

Carol Bender in memory of Lucie Beck

Honia Johnston-Cobb & Charles Cobb in memory of her son, Jacob Stanfield (2001-2021)

Carole Eckes in memory of Jim Eckes

Barbara Evans in memory of Bobby Evans

Chris & Teresa Garretson in memory of Roger & Prudy Garretson and Richard & Eloise Wilson

Wendy Holland in memory of Jake & Joan Holland and LaVonne Olmstead

Bill and Sharon Johnson in memory of our parents

LWML in memory of Pat Coleman

Doug and Shirley Masini in memory of Floyd & Norma Chester

Lonna McEwen in memory of Bob McEwen

Betty Morrell in memory of Richard Morrell

John Morrison in memory of Margot Morrison

Wayne White in memory of Chris White

**At Home with the Family**

Spend some time talking about the ways the prophecies about Jesus were fulfilled. As you prepare to unwrap your gifts tonight or tomorrow, spend some time in prayer for each giver, including God. With older children and adults, talk about how one of the gifts you received reminds you of the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Find an opportunity to share the Good News with someone else and have a blessed Christmas!

**SEASON OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

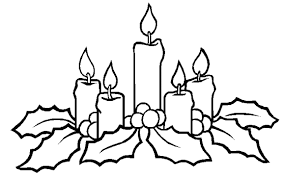
We begin the church year with an ending and a beginning. Advent is the season before Christmas during which we anticipate the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is in this Second Coming that He will judge the earth and raise all the dead. Those who have faith will be given their reward in heaven and live with Him eternally. Advent is a beginning as well. For we look forward to the time we celebrate Christ’s first advent, His birth on this earth, which we celebrate on Christmas day. The color for Advent is blue, which suggests hope for us while we wait.

**THE SYMBOLS OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

The evergreen wreath symbolizes eternal life in Christ. The candles are symbolic of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. The act of lighting more candles each week anticipates the imminent coming of Christ.

Each candle has a specific meaning:

1. **Prophecy Candle** announces a period of waiting for our Lord. – **Hope**
2. **Bethlehem Candle** symbolizes preparing to receive the Christ Child. – **Love**
3. **Shepherd’s Candle** symbolizes sharing of the news of Christ’s birth. The pink color is representative of their joy and witness to so great an event! – **Joy**
4. **Angels’ Candle** symbolizes Christ’s final coming on Judgment Day when He will appear in glory with all His angels. – **Peace**
5. **Christ Candle** is lit on Christmas Eve. This central candle signifies that the Light of the World, **Jesus, has come**.



**THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS**  *Matthew 1:1–16*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Contact Pastor: 717-333-6263; pastorjeffwebb@yahoo.com

**STAFF**

Jeff Webb, Pastor

Traci Schumacher, Administrative Assistant

Helen Williams, Church Custodian

**BOARD OF ELDERS**

Mark Waltz, Head Elder (C – E)

Mike Fajen (K – Mc)

Todd Freesemann (F – J)

Jacob Johnson (Various)

Sonny Massey (A – B)

Bob Reynolds (Me – Sa)

Tom Wayman (Sc – Z)

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Rosemary Gerdes, Quilters

Karen Hanovich, TLC Marketing

Lonna McEwen, Altar Guild

Rose Pitt, Prayer Team