

"People coming together to be The Church, not just attend one."

Trinity Lutheran Church is an open and inclusive church, welcoming all who seek God.

69 Griswold Street · Hillsdale, Michigan 517-437-2647 · tlchillsdale.org

Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

**December 24, 2022** 



Service of Holy Communion 11:00 am

**Trinity Lutheran Church** is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of longstanding, we celebrate your gifts and your ministry among us. Our order of worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin.

**MISSION STATEMENT -** The Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is to nurture faith through proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ by word, sacrament, deeds and loving relationships, to ALL people.

**VISION STATEMENT** - As proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to maximize our gifts and resources to reach out with God's love and serve the global community.

**NURSERY** - This congregation encourages ALL children to participate in worship. They learn more about worship and faith by being part of it than anything else. If you or your children need a break, a nursery is located in the lower level of the church building, and is accessible from either stairway. During worship, the nursery is self-service.

**COMMUNION PROCEDURE** - The communion table of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is open to all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. Please follow the ushers' instructions at the time of distribution. Children who have not yet received first communion instruction are welcome to come forward with their families to receive a blessing.

Communion will be by distributed by individual disposable cup. The communicant stands before the Pastor to receive the bread, then receives the cup of wine held by the assisting minister. Grape juice is also available (wine is red/ grape juice colorless). Gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request. Simply tell the pastor at the time of communion.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated weekly throughout the year. No one is ever required to participate in the sacrament, but it is offered to nourish and sustain God's people. This is in accordance with Lutheran teaching:

Background 35A: The Church celebrates the Holy Communion frequently because the Church needs the sacrament, the means by which the Church's fellowship is established and its mission as the baptized people of God is nourished and sustained. This practice was reaffirmed in 1989 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We continue to need "consistent pastoral encouragement and instruction relating to Holy Communion...pointing up Christ's command, his promise, and our deep need." For a variety of historical reasons, Lutherans in various places moved away from the weekly celebration of the sacrament.

Application 35C: Participation in the sacramental meal is by invitation, not demand. The members of the church are encouraged to make the sacrament a frequent rather than occasional part of their lives. (Excerpts from: The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 35)

### Tuesday, December 24, 2022

#### 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.

#### PRELUDE MUSIC

Stand

### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

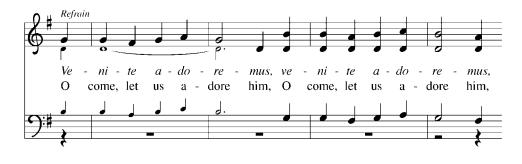
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P God of life,
- You promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

- P Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.
- C Amen.







### **GREETING**

P

- P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

### PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his 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; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, 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.

#### LIGHTING OF THE WREATH

Choir

Candle of Hope

All five candles are lit.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

### C Amen

Sit

A A reading from Isaiah.

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2–7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors

and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

- A Word of God, Word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.
- A A reading from Titus.

SECOND READING Titus 2:11-14

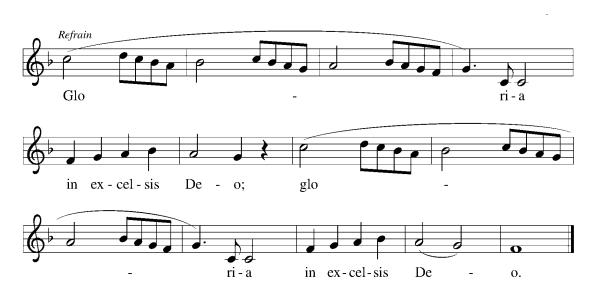
The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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.

- A Word of God, Word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL PROCESSION ELW <u>#289</u> (refrain only) Angels We Have Heard on High All turn to face the cross.



- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The 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.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **HYMN**

### ELW #276 v. 1

### Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



- 1 In fant ho ly, in fant low ly, for his bed a cat tle stall;
- 2 Flocks were sleep-ing, shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the child is Lord of all. saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift-ly wing-ing, an - gels sing-ing, bells are ring-ing, tid - ings bring-ing: Thus re-joic-ing, free from sor-row, prais-es voic-ing, greet the mor-row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

#### PRAYER AT THE NATIVITY

- P O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever.
- C Amen.

The Christ Child is placed in the Crèche

**HYMN** 

ELW #276 v. 2

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Sit

**SERMON** 



### **NICENE CREED**

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.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

# A brief silence.

- A Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease (*regions in crisis may be named*). God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain (*especially*). Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving (*especially*). God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- A You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
- C Amen.

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord. Please do not leave your pew, pass the peace to those in your family group as you wish but to others by waves or other hand signs

Sit

**CHOIR** 

**Angels All Around** 



#### **OFFERING**

Stand

#### **OFFERING HYMN**

ELW #279 v.1&4

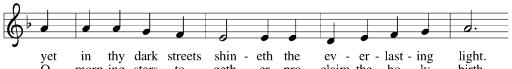
O Little Town of Bethlehem



still we lie! 0 lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem. how see thee For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a bove How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - lv the won - drous gift giv'n! is ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us. we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. bless - ings God im-parts to hu - man hearts the his heav'n. So of cast out our sin, and en - ter in. be born in us to - day.



Ö morn-ing stars, to geth - er pro claim the ho - ly birth, No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin, We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

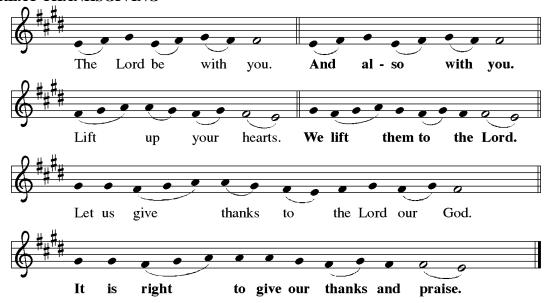


hopes and fears of The all the years are met in thee to - night. God the king, and and prais - es sing to peace to all the earth! where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in. a - bide with us. our Lord Im - man - u - el! oh. come to us.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

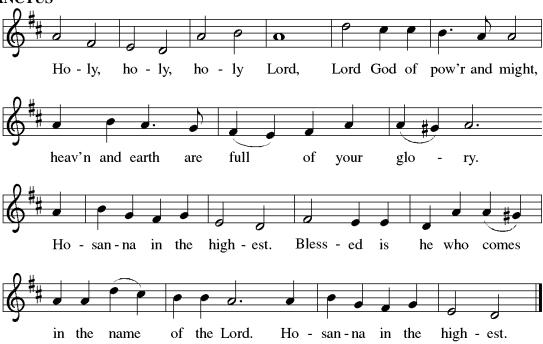
- A God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
- C Amen.

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



P It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





#### **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.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Sit

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The presiding minister and the assisting ministers receive the bread and wine and then give them to those who come to receive. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say "Amen."

Follow the usher's instructions to approach the altar. Communion will be by individual cup, the communicant stands before the Pastor to receive the bread, then Assisting Minister will hand you the cup the cup of wine. Gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request. Simply tell the pastor at the time of communion. If you are unable to consume alcohol, please inform the assisting minister when it is your turn to receive the wine, and you will be given a wine substitute.

#### SILENT MEDITATION

While others are receiving communion you are invited to reflect on the readings, the sermon and the music.

Stand

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C Amen

### CANDLE LIGHTING

## **Reading: John 1:1-14** (in darkness)

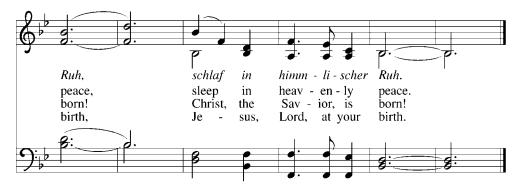
<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.



The hymn is sung as the candles are lit, beginning with the light of Christ.





## **BLESSING**

- P May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
- C Amen.
- P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
- C Amen.
- P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
- C Amen.
- P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- C Amen.



### **SENDING**

A Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

## **SERVING AT TRINITY**

Ministers: Every member of the congregation
Piano/Keyboard: Paul Lucas
Parish Secretary: Chris McNamara

Council President: Terry Vear
Vice-President: Suzanne Sponsler
Treasurer: Chris McNamara

Secretary: Sandra Dufur

Council Members: Warren Bartels, Johncie Langston, Joe Painter, Gene Stockford-Shively, and

Patti Weber

## **SERVING TODAY:**

Supply Pastor: Rev. Julie Winklepleck

**Assisting Minister:** Patti Weber **Acolyte:** Thomas Stockford-Shively

**Ushers:** Thomas Stockford-Shively and Diane Draper

Coffee Hour: Vicki Skiver

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Altar Guild: Thomas Stockford-Shively

Offering Counters: Johncie Langston and Suzanne Sponsler

Videographer: Gene Stockford-Shively

**POINSETTIAS** – Please see the insert for information on the beautiful poinsettias decorating our sanctuary.

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