



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Holy Trinity

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2022 11:00 p.m. Welcome to all on this holy night! We extend a special greeting to those visiting with us to join in the celebration of the Savior's birth. May the love, mercy, and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ be yours always. Have a blessed Christmas!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: Come forward by the center aisle in two lines. Take a small glass from the tray held by the ushers. Receive the host from the presiding minister, alternating between left and right lines. You may receive the host either in your open palm or in your mouth. Move to the chalice bearer on your side, and receive the wine poured into the small glass. Return to your pew by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray provided at the table in the aisle.

If you are unable to consume either the bread or wine, be assured that Christ is fully present for us in either element; reverence the body or blood of Christ by saying, "Amen" when the host or the chalice is presented.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Candle-lighting: When passing the light, *please tip the unlighted candle*, *never the lighted one*. Parents, use careful discretion whether children may safely use a candle. Extinguish all candles at the conclusion of the hymns. Take care of dripping wax. Candles will be collected by the ushers in the narthex.

The Christmas Day Holy Communion is tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. Celebrate Christ's birthday in worship!

Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please gather in silence and prepare for worship. Remember to turn off cell phones. Thank you.

Assembly responses are in **bold type**.

Pre-Service Music (10:45 p.m.)

Prelude Seasonal Music Kyle Reilly (violinist)

Gathering

(The assembly faces the rear of the church.)

Proclamation of the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December,

unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;

thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

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

one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-forth 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;

the whole world being at 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 having passed since his conception,

was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

The Gathering Song O, Come, All Ye Faithful all ye faith - ful, 0 come, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal, Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Beth come ye, O come ye to le - hem; mor - tal born of a vir gin, a he comes; cit - i - zens of sing, all ye heav - en a - bove! thee be . . . glo ry giv'n! sus, to and be hold him, born the king of come an - gels: Son of the Fa ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing! God in . . . the . . . Glo high - est: to ry Word Fa ther, of the now in flesh ap - pear - ing: Refrain a - do - re -- ni - te a - do - re mus, ve - ni - te come, let a - dore him, O come, let us us a - dore him,



Christmas Dialog

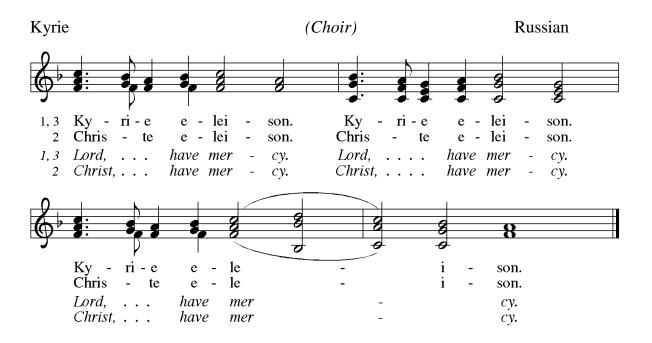
Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

He is the Light no darkness can overcome.

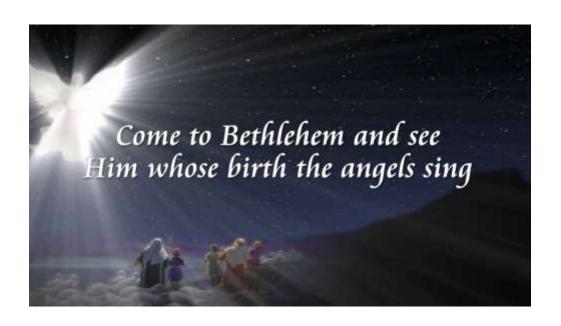
At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven." In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.



Hymn of Praise Angels We Have Heard On High we have heard on high, An - gels sweet - ly o'er the plains, sing - ing ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous Shep-herds, why this strains pro-long? him whose birth the Beth - le - hem and see an gels sing; ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. re - ply, and the moun-tains in What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song? come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.





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.

(The assembly is seated.)

Word

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

(The psalm will be sung responsively; the assembly singing alternate verses **Refrain follows verse 13**.)



- 1 Sing to the LORD | a new song; sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
- 3 Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised, more to be feared | than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols; but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- 6 Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence; power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.

- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!

 The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD, for you come to | judge the earth.
- 13 You will judge the | world with righteousness and the peoples | with your truth. (**R**)

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands.)

The Lighting of Hand Candles

(The ushers disperse the candlelight throughout the congregation. **Lighted** candles are held upright while unlighted candles are tilted to receive the flame. All face the center of the church for the reading of the Christmas Gospel, which symbolizes Christ coming into our midst.)

Gospel Procession

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

(J.S. Bach)

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning; ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.

This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

(The assembly turns to face the processional cross.)

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. Glory to you, O Lord. (Shouted)

(The reading of the Christmas Gospel.)

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ**. (Shouted)

All blessing, thanks and praise to thee,
Lord Jesus Christ, be given;
thou hast our brother deigned to be,
our foes in sunder riven.
Oh, grant us through our day of grace
with constant praise to seek thy face;
grant us ere long in glory
with praises to adore thee.

(The assembly extinguishes hand candles and sits after the pastor prays.)

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

(The assembly stands as the organ sounds.)

Hymn of the Day O Little Town of Bethlehem lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still see thee lie! we For Christ is born of gath - ered Mar - y, and, all a bove si - lent - ly 3 How si - lent - ly, how the won - drous gift is giv'n! Beth-le-hem, deho - ly child of scend to us, pray; A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by; while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in to - day. usthy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light. yet geth - er morn-ing stars, to pro - claim the ho - ly O birth, com - ing; but, No ear may hear his in this world of sin, hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; The hopes and fears of the years are met in thee to - night. all God the king, and peace to prais - es sing to 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,

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

and his kingdom will have no end.

dead,

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

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, responding, God of grace, hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace, hear our prayer.

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. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

Are there others for whom we should pray?

P: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

Amen.

Peace

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

(All greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

(The assembly is seated.)

Meal

The Offering of Our Gifts

Anthem

To Us a Son a Child of Hope Is Born

(Praetorius)

To us a Child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n.
To us a Son is giv'n. To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n, and on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All power in earth and heav'n.
And on His shoulder ever rests All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r. all pow'r
In earth and heav'n.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord, The Wonderful, the Counselor, The God by all adored, The God by all adored.

(The assembly stands.)

Offertory Hymn

What Child is This



Offertory Prayer

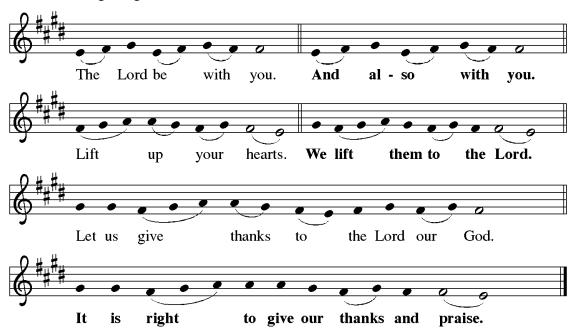
Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessings for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

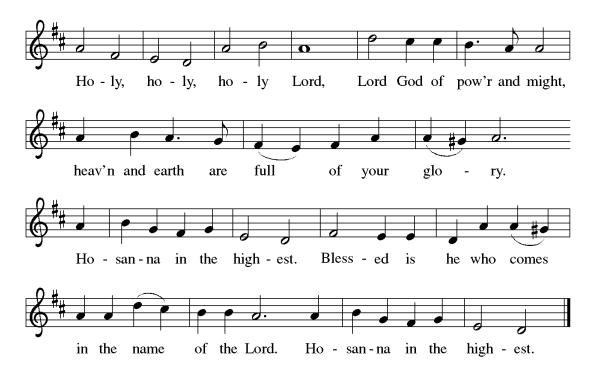
(The altar is prepared for the Holy Communion)

Great Thanksgiving



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



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon us and these gifts that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ.

Grant, that as we are held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy church, both now and forever.



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.

Breaking of Bread

In this Holy Sacrament God makes a home with us.

Let us approach in wonder at all that God has done.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

(The assembly is seated.)

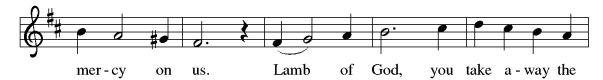
Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have





Hymns during Distribution It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve (Stanza 1 in Norwegian: Curt Thompson and Kathy Thompson; Assembly begins on Stanza 1)



Away in a Manger



(The assembly stands.)

Post Communion Blessing

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

Amen.



Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

God of light, with our eyes we have seen your salvation in this holy feast you have prepared for us. Send us forth into the world to be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Candle Light Service

The Lighting of Hand Candles

(The ushers disperse the candlelight throughout the congregation. **Lighted** candles are held upright while unlighted candles are tilted to receive the flame.)

(The assembly kneels.)

Candle Lighting Dialogue

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice. Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely or homeless.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

(Silent Night is sung in adoration surrounding the crèche.)

1. 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,

Heavenly 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.

Sending

(The assembly stands.)

Christmas Seasonal Blessing

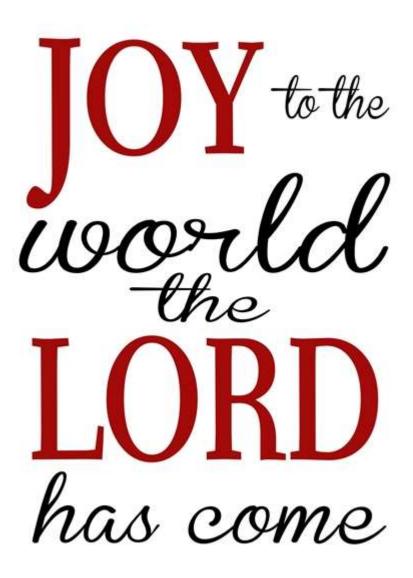
May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** (Sung)

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.** (Sung)

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.** (Sung)

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.** (Sung)

(The assembly faces the cross as it passes in procession.)





Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!

Peace to God's people on earth!

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

(The assembly extinguishes their hand candles and gives them to the ushers in the narthex.)

Postlude Finale on *Mendelssohn* (Archer)

Serving Tonight

Serving Tonight

Presiding MinisterPastor Brenda MartinOrganistMaidene HackettLiturgical DeaconCatherine MottCommunion AssistantSidney RichardsonAcolyte/CruciferGriffin RichardsonLectorTammy DanielloHead UsherBob Massing

Parish Choir

Susan Achenbach Liz Lewis

Mary Beth Bradley Curt Thompson

Kathy Thompson

