

# **Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church!**



**December 25, 2022**

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December 25, 2022

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## **Prelude Welcome**

### **A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Opening Lesson**      Luke 2:1-7      The Birth of Jesus

*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.*

**GATHERING SONG**    *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*      ELW 288

1      Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye 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!

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

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

## **DIALOGUE**

*Who are these angels who come to earth,*  
**bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?**

*Who are these shepherds who run to see,*  
**and worship the babe on bended knee?**

*Who is this child, so small, so slight,*  
**of whom the angels sang that night?**

*Who is this king, a manger his throne,*  
**who humbles himself to make us his own?**

*Who is this God who sends a Son*  
**into our midst, the promised one?**

## **GREETING & PRAYER**

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,*  
*the Son of God sent from heaven above,*  
*be with you all.*  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. Incarnate God, on this Christmas Day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and lives.*

**Amen.**

## WHO ARE THESE ANGELS WHO COME TO EARTH?

**Lesson** Luke 2:8-14

*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!'*

*(Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation)*

*Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given.*

**Carol**      *Angels We Have Heard On High*

ELW 289

1 Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

### **Refrain**

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

## WHO ARE THESE SHEPHERDS WHO RUN TO SEE?

**Lesson** Luke 2:15-20

*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.*

*(Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation)*

*Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given.*

**CAROL**

The First Noel v. 1&2

ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain**

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

**WHO IS THIS CHILD, SO SMALL, SO SLIGHT?**

**Lesson:** Hebrews 1:1-4

*Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

*(Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation)*

*Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given.*

**Carol**

*What Child is This*

ELW 296

1 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!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

**WHO IS THIS KING, A MANGER HIS THRONE?**

**Lesson:** 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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*(Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation)*

Glory to God in highest heaven,  
**who unto us the Son has given.**

**Carol:**

*Love Has Come*

ELW 292

- 1 Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.
- 2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.
- 3 Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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## WHO IS THIS GOD, WHO SENDS A SON?

**Lesson** John 1:1-14

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.*

*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.*

*(Following a brief silence for prayer and meditation)*

*Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given.*

Carol:

*The Bells of Christmas*

ELW 298

1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;  
the heav'nly guest is at the door.  
He comes to earthly dwellings still  
with new year gifts of peace, good will.

2 This world, though wide and far outspread,  
could scarcely find for you a bed.  
Your cradle was a manger stall,  
no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

3 Now let us go with quiet mind,  
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,  
to gaze on him who gladdens them,  
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.



4 Oh, join with me, in gladness sing,  
to keep our Christmas with our king,  
until our song, from loving souls,  
like rushing mighty water rolls!

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt.

## MEDITATION

Pastor Kim Suhr

## HYMN OF THE DAY *In the Bleak Midwinter*

ELW 294

1 In the bleak midwinter,  
frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron,  
water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter,  
long ago.

2 Heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heav'n and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

3 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—  
give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.*  
**Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.**

*You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.*  
**Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.**

*You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.*  
**Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.**

*You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.*  
**May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

### **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**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

## **HOLY COMMUNION    The Great Thanksgiving**

*L: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*L: Lift up your hearts.*

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C: 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... ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.*

**SANCTUS**      *(Sung to the tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Host, by all adored.  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the Glory of Your Name.  
Hail, Hosanna, God Most high. Blest is He who now draws nigh.  
In the Name of God the Kin, Hallelujahs glad we sing:  
Hail, Hosanna! Praise due be forever, Lord, to You!

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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.

**Distribution Music: Worship Team**

**COMMUNION**

*All who believe Jesus is our Lord and Savior are invited to the table!*

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

*O Lord our God,  
we give you thanks for the gifts of bread and wine,  
the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Send us out into your world to proclaim with joy:*

**Glory to God in highest heaven,  
who unto us the Son has given. Amen.**

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

*May the God who comes from heaven above  
be born in your hearts and lives this day and always.  
Amen.*

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## **Dismissal**

*L: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).