

WELCOME!
Trinity Lutheran Church



Merry Christmas

Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2023

- * = Please stand if able
- = Please be seated

- **Prelude –*by Roxanne Groff***
- **Office of the Acolyte**
- **Ringling of the Bell**
- **Welcome**

• Lighting of the Advent Wreath

R: *(light candle 1)* This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise.

R: *(light candle 2)* This is the candle of love, and its light leads us in God's way.

R: *(light candle 3)* This is the candle of joy, and it shows us God's healing and wholeness.

- **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

R: *(light candle 4)* This is the candle of peace, and it proclaims Christ's coming reign of justice, when we will make war no more.

C: *(light candle 5)* This is the Christ candle, and its light declares that he is here among us now. Thanks be to God.

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism...*

**P: We confess our sins before God
and one another.**

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Ever-present God,

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

C: We come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh, as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others.

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

C: Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sin. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song/Hymn of Praise

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LBW 60



**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LBW 60

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LBW 60

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LBW 60

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**P: 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.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... God of mystery and grace, you came to us not in power and might, not with armies of angels or men, but as a vulnerable baby in an animal's stall. Teach us the transformative power of your loving and peaceful way, that we might work for your justice in the world.

C: Amen

• **Scripture Reading**

L: Our scripture reading for this day is from Luke, Chapter 2.

C: Glory to you O' Lord!

- **Luke 2:1-20**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called

- **Luke 2:1-20**

Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a

- **Luke 2:1-20**

manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for

- **Luke 2:1-20**

see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and

- **Luke 2:1-20**

saying,

**14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!”**

**15 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**

- **Luke 2:1-20**

known to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

- **Luke 2:1-20**

¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

- **Luke 2:1-20**

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon



Merry Christmas

Sermon



Sermon



Magic



Mystery



Miracle

Sermon

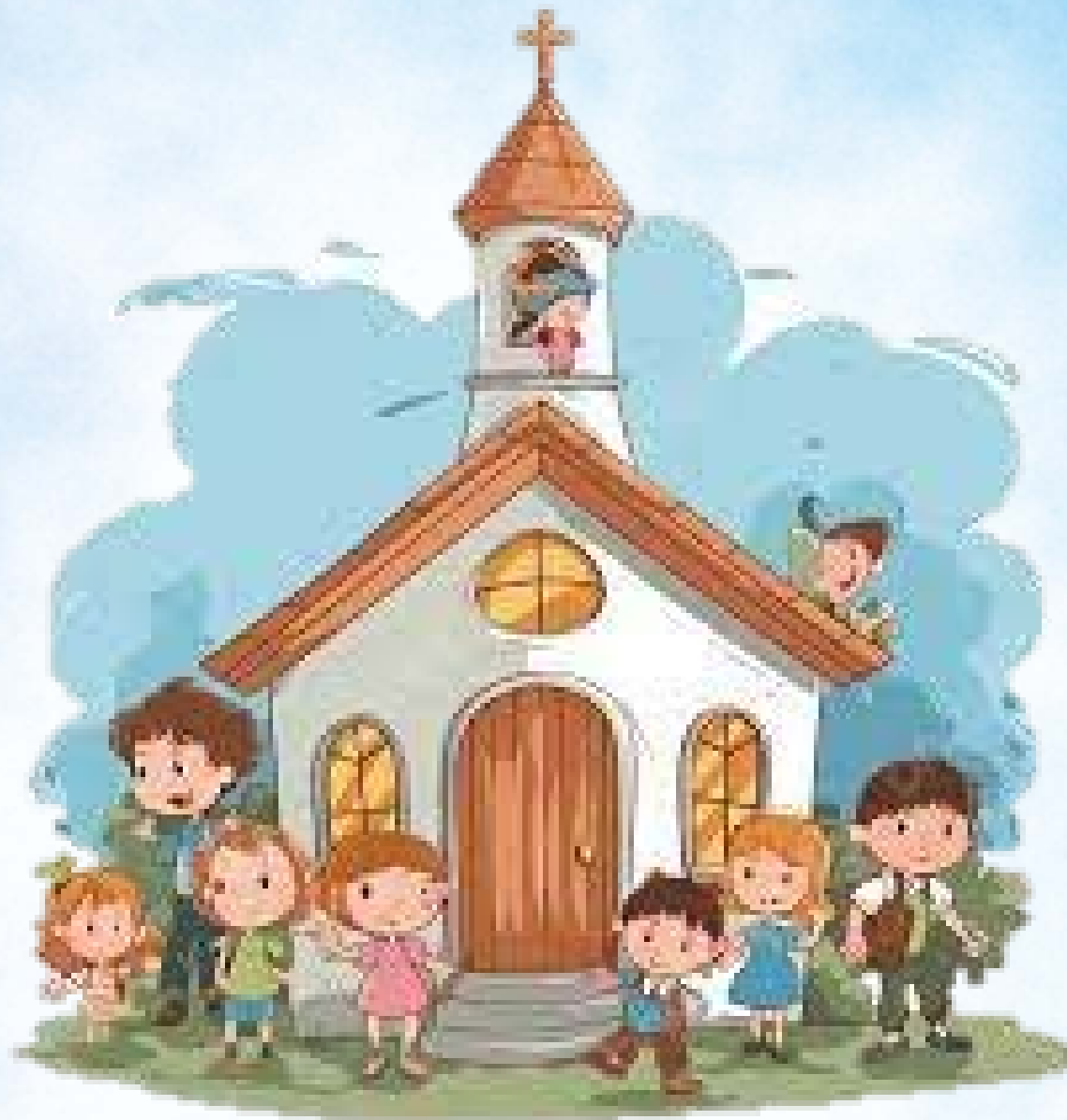


Sermon

Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



Sermon



RECONCILIATION

Sermon



Sermon



Merry Christmas

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“Would I Know My Savior?”

by

Larry Harter

* **NICENE CREED**

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

* **NICENE CREED**

C: 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.

* **NICENE CREED**

C: Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

* **NICENE CREED**

C: 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.

* **NICENE CREED**

C: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

* **NICENE CREED**

**C: 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

Each petition will end with the words,

A: God of Promise,

The congregation will respond with:

C: In mercy, hear our prayer.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayer concludes...

P: We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

* SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is now shared with the Pastor at this time...

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

- **OFFERING**



Merry Christmas




Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

- **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: God, we can think of no greater gift to us than Jesus. In awe and gratitude, we respond with our offerings out of the abundance you have provided in our lives. Use them for the good of the world.

C: Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All the Baptized are welcome
to celebrate this Holy Meal.*

* DIALOGUE




P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

The first line of dialogue consists of two parts. The first part, marked with a 'P' (Piano), is a simple melody of four notes: G4, A4, B4, and C5. The second part, marked with a 'C' (Crescendo), is a more active melody of seven notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, and G4.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

The second line of dialogue consists of two parts. The first part, marked with a 'P', is a melody of six notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, and A4. The second part, marked with a 'C', is a melody of seven notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, and G4.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The third line of dialogue is a single part marked with a 'P'. It consists of a melody of eight notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, and F#4.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The fourth line of dialogue is a single part marked with a 'C'. It consists of a melody of nine notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, and E4.

*** THE PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right and salutary...

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

* THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, Creator of all...

...both now and forever,

C: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The infant in the manger became our leader and teacher, and gave his life for the sake of all creation. He invites you now to this table, to share in the bread and wine that makes us one. Come to the feast.

- **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

All will commune “At the Rail”.

The bread may be broken for distribution.

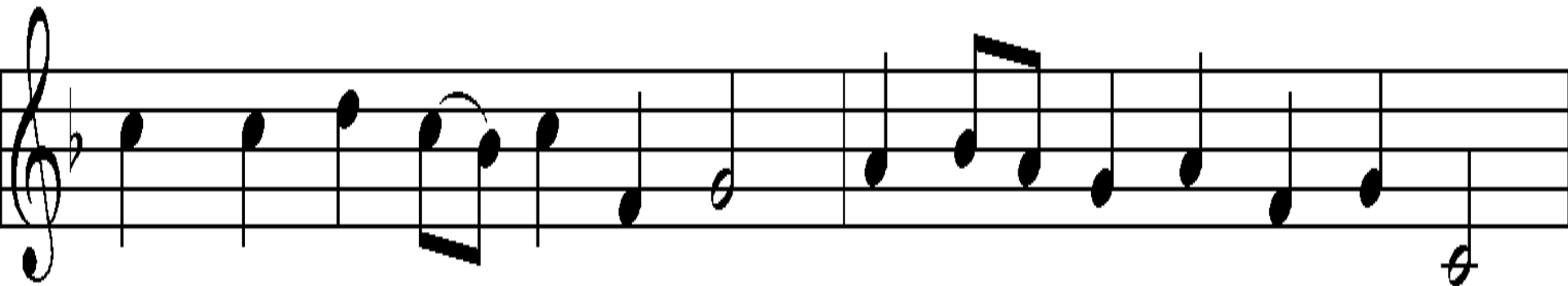
*As the ministers give the bread and wine,
they say these words :*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: **Amen.**

* POST COMMUNION CANTACLE

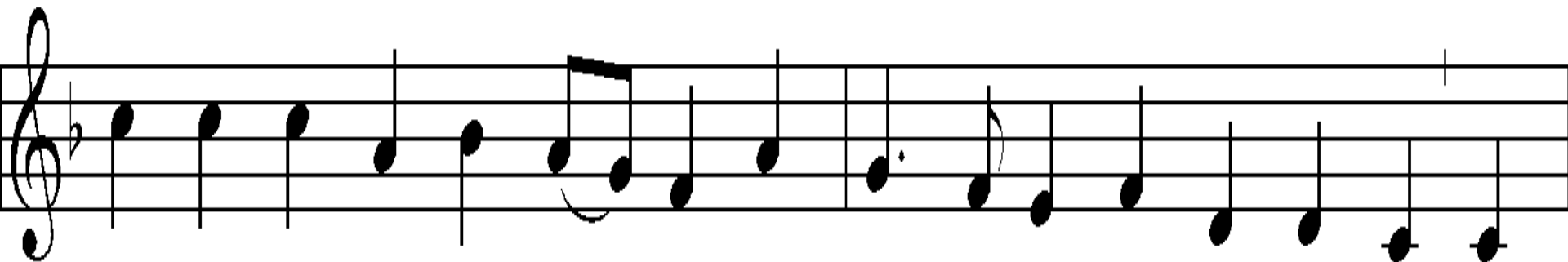


☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.

* POST COMMUNION CANTACLE



He re-calls his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

* **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May this body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unity us, ✝ now and forever,

C: Amen.

* **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

* LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

- *The Pastor and Acolyte will distribute the flame from the Christ Candle down the center aisle and the congregation will pass the flame from the center aisle outward.*
- *Unlit candles lean to lighted candles so as not to drip hot wax.*
- *When all candles are lit and the only light in the sanctuary, the congregation will sing Silent Night.*

* **Silent Night**

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.

* **Silent Night**

**2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

* **Silent Night**

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.**

***The candles are extinguished and the
lights are restored in the sanctuary
once again.***

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**




Merry Christmas

* BLESSING

P: May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

* **SENDING BLESSING**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit  remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*** Sending Song**
“Go Tell It On The Mountain”
LBW 70



Merry Christmas

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

**3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

* **DISMISSAL**

P: ... Depart in Christ's Love.

**C: Seeking, welcoming, and serving
all. Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Pre-Recorded By

Roxanne Groff

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