

Trinity Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024-4:30pm

Creative Worship



*"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has made known to us."*

Beautiful News to Hear Again

AS WE GATHER

Can you imagine a person who has never heard of Christmas? How would you explain what we are hearing on Christmas night to such a person? To fully understand what Christmas is about, that person needs to know, first, that God who created everything, including the person you are explaining this to. Then that person needs to know that, from the beginning, all people have sinned against God, with the result that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Christmas is the discovery that God’s love is so deep that, even though we have sinned, from eternity He planned a way everyone could be forgiven, return to Him, and live forever in the way He originally intended for us. People in Old Testament times were saved by faith in the promised Christ. And people are saved by faith now in that same Christ who has come in the person of the Son of God, “conceived by the Holy Spirit” and “born of the virgin Mary.” He was born in our flesh so that He could satisfy those “wages of sin” before God for us and for the whole world by His sacrificial death. The proof that His payment was sufficient is His resurrection from the dead and return to the Father to live and reign over all forever.

Paul said, “My heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” Then he asked our question, “But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? . . . So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:1, 14–17).

It is not that difficult to imagine someone who has never heard of Christmas for one more reason. For even we who have heard still too often live as if we have never heard! Because sin continues to be our struggle until we are finally delivered from its power, we need to hear this story over and over again. Tonight we recall how Christmas and the entire Gospel of our salvation is beautiful news to hear and to believe over and over again.

PREPARATION

PRE-SERVICE: *Klingende Glocken-“Hark the Glad Sound”*
 French Horn & Baritone-“Joy to the World”

Baptism: Bodhi Lynn Avery-Gangadharan

During our service this afternoon, Bodhi Lynn Avery-Gangadharan, the son of Aditya Gangadharan and Shelby Avery will become a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. The sponsors for Bodhi are James and Jessica Edwards. May the Lord guard and keep this new little lamb in His flock.

LSB 594-God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!
- 5 There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

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HYMN "O Sing of Christ" (LSB 362)

- 1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known
The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.

- 2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
 And Paradise was barred
 Until the second Adam came
 To mend what sin had marred.
 For when the time was full and right
 God sent His only Son;
 He came to us as life and light
 And our redemption won.
- 3 He came to that which was His own,
 But He was not received;
 Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
 And some His name believed.
 To these He gave the right to be
 The heirs of heav'n above,
 Born not of human ancestry
 But born of God in love.
- 4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
 Among us here on earth
 As God with us, Emmanuel,
 To bring this holy birth.
 Though rich, You willingly became
 One with our poverty,
 That we might share Your wealth and name
 For all eternity!

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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

Isaiah 9:2; 2 Samuel 22:29

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Pastor: You are my lamp, O LORD,
People: **and my God lightens my darkness.**

CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTION

Romans 13:11–12

Pastor: The apostle Paul reminds us, “You know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” In order to hear again the beautiful Good News of how the Savior of the world came to save us all, let us confess our need to hear, to repent of our sin and to believe.

People: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, I confess to You once again this night that I have walked in the darkness of sin, that I have sinned in the shadows of my conscience and in words and actions toward others; all of it in disobedience to Your commands. I pray You to send forth the light and truth of Your Son, my Savior. Have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

Pastor: The Lord sends out His light and His truth to find you and to save you. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the X Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

WORD

INTROIT *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

People: **When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

Pastor: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

People: The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed.

Pastor: He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

People: Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,

Pastor: “As for Me, have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”

People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

When all was still, and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

HYMN OF PRAISE O Come, All Ye Faithful (LSB 379)

1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

*ref O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain*

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God of light, on the night of the birth of the Savior of the world,
Your holy angels sang of Your glory. Grant that Your Word as a
lamp unflinching pierces the darkness of our earthbound way,
showing us Your grace and enlightening our path with Your
holiness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2–7 (From darkness to 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN *On Christmas Night All Christians Sing* (LSB 377:1,4)

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.
- 4 All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore. Amen."

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The Birth of Jesus Christ

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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

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.

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” (LSB 375)***

- 1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
 Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
 Loudly sing His love amazing,
 Worthy folk of Christendom.

- 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending
 And in love our race befriending;
 In our need His help extending,
 Saved us from the wily foe.

- 3 Jacob's star in all its splendor
 Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
 Forcing Satan to surrender,
 Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.

4 From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

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SERMON

OFFERING *Klingende Glocken* "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministry here at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. Your offerings are gifts to God. They help us serve Him as a witness to our community. As you continue to place your offerings in the baskets, mail them to the church office, or give through our online giving opportunities, (follow the "Giving" link on the Trinity website at www.trinitymonitor.org or text the word "GIVE" to 989-270-0281 and follow the directions) know that we seek to use these resources to the glory of God and the furthering of His Kingdom.

HYMN *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* (LSB 374)

1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH LSB 351:1-2, 5-6

Pastor: Let us pray.
Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting Light:

People: O Christ, Redeemer, save us all and hear Thy servants when they call.

Pastor: O God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, the wonder and beauty of Your creation is surpassed only by the awe and miracle that You became one with us in the incarnation of the Son of God, the Son of Mary.

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
People: hast found the healing, full of grace, to cure and save our ruined race.

Pastor: O Jesus Christ, true Son of God, You came into the world to save sinners.
Come now to us in Word and Sacrament to give us life by living in us.

O Thou, whose coming is with dread to judge the living and the dead,
People: preserve us from the ancient foe while still we dwell on earth below.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, move us to truly repent of our sins and more truly to be filled with faith in Christ, our life.

As the angels revealed to Mary and Joseph the miracle of Your visitation and to the shepherds the majesty of the incarnation of Your Son and to the Wise Men the holiness of the gift of Your salvation, so continue to send forth preachers of Your Word and witnesses of Your truth, that many may come to believe in Your love and receive eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Inspire those whom you send to preach and proclaim Your salvation, that they may remain steadfast in the clarity and purpose of Your Word. Fill the entire earth with the beautiful news of Your grace and mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: For all who are in any need—all who suffer illness, injury, or any adversity—send Your healing and help, forgiveness and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Give to all who have died in Christ Your safekeeping and peace. Bring us all at last to the great joy of our resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: To God the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit, Three in One,
People: **praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.
Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

HYMN *Silent Night, Holy Night (LSB 363)*

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,
Heav'nly 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 Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* *(LSB 380)*

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

*ref 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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Refrain
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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.
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Organist: Joy Feinauer
French Horn: Kate Kaiser
Baritone: Judah Kaiser
Trumpet: Megan Gallagher



Candlelight Worship
December 24th
10:00pm

Christmas Day Worship
w/Communion
December 25th
10:00am

New Year’s Eve Worship
w/Communion
December 31st
4:30pm



(Worship On Wednesday: 6:00 p.m. Resumes 1/8/2025)
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study: 9:40 a.m. (September-May)
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m. (September-April)

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