

Trinity Lutheran Church
Christmas Candlelight Worship
The Nativity of our Lord
December 24th, 2024-10:00pm



Shining in the Darkness

AS WE GATHER

Light has become synonymous with Christmas. Lights on houses. Lights on Christmas trees. Lights in luminaries that brighten walkways. Yet, all these lights are little more than sentimental decoration if we do not recognize the greater light that shined at Christmas. Isaiah reminds us, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). God shines light in darkness. Tonight, we rejoice in Jesus, the light of the world, who gives deeper meaning to all other Christmas lights.

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight. (*LSB* 361:1)

OPENING HYMN “Once in Royal David’s City” *LSB* 376

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Once in royal David’s city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child. | 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone. |
| 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy. | 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound! |
| 3 For He is our childhood’s pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness. | |

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OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 9:2; LSB 361:1*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light;

Pastor: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,

People: on them has light shined.

Pastor: O little town of Bethlehem,

People: How still we see thee lie!

Pastor: Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

People: The silent stars go by;

Pastor: Yet in thy dark streets shineth

People: The everlasting light.

Pastor: The hopes and fears of all the years

People: Are met in thee tonight.

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Titus 2:11–14*

Pastor: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.” As we gather together this Christmas Eve, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Today we celebrate “the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.” Because of this Savior born for us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and 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 ☐ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” (LSB 368)

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

ref 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*

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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, You give us reason to rejoice by Your making the light to shine in darkness. Grant that we joyfully receive the One who is the light of the world on Christmas, that with sure confidence we see Him when He returns as our Judge; through Jesus Christ, 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*

("The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.")

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. **3** 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. **4** 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. **5** For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. **6** 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. **7** 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.

Solo-Paul Reinsch: "Oh, How Beautiful the Sky"

PSALM *Psalm 96; antiphon: v. 2*

**People: Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
tell of His salvation from day to day.**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

Women: *Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
tell of His salvation from day to day.*

Men: *Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples!*

Pastor: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.

Women: *For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.*

Men: *Splendor and majesty are before Him;
strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.*

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Women: *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
bring an offering, and come into His courts!*

Men: *Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before Him, all the earth!*

Pastor: Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
He will judge the peoples with equity.”

Women: *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!*

Men: *Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the LORD, for He comes,
for He comes to judge the earth.*

Pastor: He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in His faithfulness.

**People: Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
tell of His salvation from day to day.**

EPISTLE Titus 2:11–14

(We await our blessed hope, the glory of our great God.)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” (LSB 386:1)

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

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HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1–14

(The birth of Jesus)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: 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.

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,

People: “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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.”

Pastor: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

People: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” (LSB 377)

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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. | 3 When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King. |
| 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty? | 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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SERMON

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Isaiah 9:6*

Pastor: This Christmas Eve, we come before our Lord in prayer rejoicing that “for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.”

To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, as we hear the angels’ words, “Fear not,” let us take their admonishment to heart. In the face of fears and anxiety, grant us peace in the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, during this season of celebration, cheer those who are lonely or mark this season with a painful grief. Give them the true joy that comes from the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, You chose Mary and Joseph to care for Your Son. Bless all those with whom You have given the vocation of mother or father, grandmother or grandfather that they care for the children entrusted into their care, sharing with them the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! Lord, continue to watch over those who suffer in body and spirit. Grant them healing and restoration from their afflictions according to Your gracious will, [*especially . . .*]. Give them peace in their affliction through the Savior born for us. O come, let us adore Him,

People: Christ the Lord!

Pastor: “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.”

People: Amen.

OFFERING

*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 It Came upon the Midnight Clear LSB 366:1,4

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God’s ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

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LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Pastor: As the light of these candles illumine our faces, it symbolizes the light of Christ, a child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from His throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need of candle or sun. Rejoice, for the Light of the world has come, who transforms us with the brightness of His glory.

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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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.**

CLOSING PRAYER “Away in a Manger” LSB 364:3

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
 And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

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Lights are turned on.

BENEDICTION Luke 2:10–11

Pastor: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy

People: that will be for all the people.

Pastor: For unto you is born this day in the city of David

People: a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain” LSB 388

*ref 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

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth.
Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
Refrain

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Organist



(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)



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

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



Silent Night Oh Holy Night