

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Family Service • December 24, 2015 • 5:30 pm

Nativity of Our Lord



On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Welcome members and guests to our worship service this evening. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. At each service, we ask that all members and guests please sign the black pew register. Please include your home address, email address and phone number.

A nursery is available for children up to five years of age during the service, should you wish. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. There are also “quiet bags” available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about borrowing one. This service is especially for children of all ages and we welcome all joyful noises to the Lord!

Parents are invited to bring children from the nursery for Holy Communion to receive a blessing. If children become restless or noisy during worship, parents are encouraged to take them in to and out of the sanctuary as necessary.

Trinity offers an induction loop for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to “T.” If you are unsure if your hearing aid is compatible, please contact your audiologist.



The Reverend Doctor James G. Cobb, Interim Pastor
C. Robert Keene II, Organist and Director of Music
Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word

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Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.

Welcome

The assembly stands.

Gathering Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

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:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing!

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

The assembly is seated.

The Christmas Story**A Tableau****Blessing of the Nativity Scene**

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for He is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

Please sign the pew register.

Voluntary

In dulci jubilo

Marcel Dupré

The assembly stands.

Offertory Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

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.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Offertory Prayer

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 a blessing 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 Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.

The assembly is seated.

Communion

Holy Communion will be served by intinction. Please hold your wafer and, when the chalice is presented to you, dip the wafer in the wine.

Music During the Distribution

<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	ELW 276
<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	ELW 275
<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	ELW 289

The assembly stands.

Table Blessing

The blessings and body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence for Candle Lighting

Please hold your candle with care. Lit candles should be held in an upright position so that hot wax will not drip. When extinguished, please hold your candle upright until it cools. Following the service, please return your candle to a designated box or to an usher.

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

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, 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, 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.

Blessing

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life. **Amen.**
May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength. **Amen.**
May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world. **Amen.**
And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is our joy to the world. **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary

Christe, Redemptor omnium

Gerald Near

Worship Participants

Crucifer
Acolytes
Torchbearers
Communion Assistant
Ushers

Christopher Molina
Emma Recupero and Lina Recupero
Nathan Rummel and Reagan Belote
Reagan Belote
Jarvis Edwards, Dale Goodman
David Hunt, Cliff and Anne Obara

Please join us on Sunday, December 27th, for one service of worship at 10:00 am. The liturgy will include Christmas Carols and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.